

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2017 10:23 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: Buckeye's Rea Hederman: Something to be Thankful for in Ohio's Jobs Numbers

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

= A

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

Buckeye's Rea Hederman: Something to be Thankful for in Ohio's Jobs Numbers

Columbus, OH - Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive vice president at **The Buckeye Institute**, commented on newly released unemployment data from the **Ohio Department of Job and Family Services**.

"In time for the holidays, the Ohio labor market is looking up. The household survey showed a solid month for the labor market with the unemployment rate falling from 5.3 percent to 5.1 as more Ohioans found work. Further positive news is that Ohio now matches the U.S. average in labor force participation at 62.7 percent, after trailing the national average for much of the past year.

"The business survey was also positive, although not as strong, as only 1,000 private sector jobs were added to the Ohio economy. This is in part due to a fall in construction job opportunities (-1,100), a result of unseasonably wet weather in October. Local government hiring was up, and while positive for those who were hired, places additional strain on taxpayers.

"All in all, the Ohio economy is slowly looking up from dismal numbers this summer, and will hopefully continue to improve."

= A

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

= A

= A



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

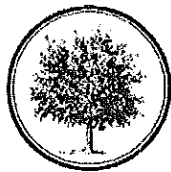
[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 8:03 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: License to Work 2.0: Past Time to End the Permission Slip Policy on Jobs,
By Greg R. Lawson

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

License to Work 2.0: Past Time to End the Permission Slip Policy on Jobs

By Greg R. Lawson
November 20, 2017

In all too many cases occupational licensing is little more than a mandatory permission slip that is imposed by a "Big Brother" like government and does little to ensure real public safety. Many of these burdens make it difficult for lower-income Ohioans to move up the ladder of economic success by getting a job and getting it quickly.

Earlier this month the Institute for Justice (IJ) released their second edition of the groundbreaking *License to Work* report. Building off their previous work, IJ outlined once again just how the explosive growth of occupational licensing has continued from coast to coast, including here in the Buckeye State.

Echoing concerns raised by their first edition of *License to Work* and by The Buckeye Institute in our own *Forbidden to Succeed* report, this version of the **IJ report** shows

that while Ohio continues to license fewer low- to moderate-income jobs than many other states, those it does license creak under greater burdens than well over half of the other states.

Consider that Ohio is the only state to license social- and human-service assistants while placing a particularly high burden on prospective auctioneers. Further, according to the IJ methodology, Ohio barbers lose 420 days to education and cosmetologists 350 days. By contrast, emergency medical technicians lose only 35 days.

This means it takes less time for someone who literally could have your life in their hands to meet the government requirements for work than it does for a person to whom you are merely entrusting your hair. This sort of ridiculousness is why **we have spoken out** so often on the need to lower the burdens on cosmetologists.

But we aren't the only ones who recognize that these onerous requirements are making it harder for people to get jobs and start working. The **Heritage Foundation**, the **Brookings Institute**, and to both the **Obama White House** and the **Trump Administration** have called for reducing these sorts of burdensome licensing requirements.

Ohioans should not have to get approval from the government in order to get a job and Ohio should adopt the least restrictive type of regulation that ensures public health and safety. And given the vast amount of information available to consumers on sites like Angie's List, Yelp, and the Better Business Bureau, it is past time for the government to get out of the business of giving professionals a seal of approval to work.

As burdensome as these regulations are on Ohioans, the burdens increase significantly on the families of military personnel who regularly move from state to state and are forced to reapply for licenses each time. The good news is, on this front there has been progress. **Ohio policymakers joined** Buckeye's fight to recognize out-of-state licenses for military spouses, which we raised in 2016 in our policy brief, ***Increasing Job Opportunities for Military Families***.

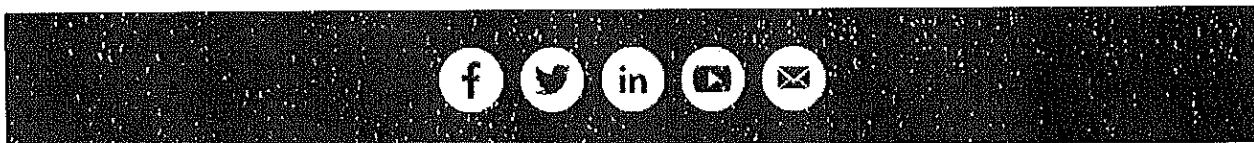
Despite this success, much work remains to be done for Ohioans and it is well past time for Ohio to get serious about reducing the burden of occupational licensing. It is time for Big Brother to get out of the way so people can get the jobs they are trained for and start building a better future for themselves and their families.

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



= A

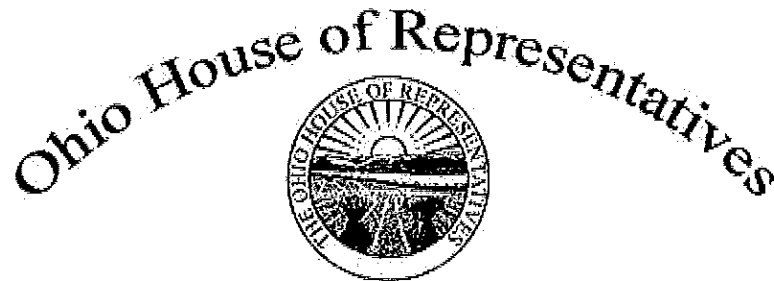
The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Financial Institutions Housing & Urban Development Committee
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 9:15 AM
To: Hucke, Justin
Subject: FIHUD Committee Announcement - 11.28.2017
Attachments: notice.pdf



ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETING

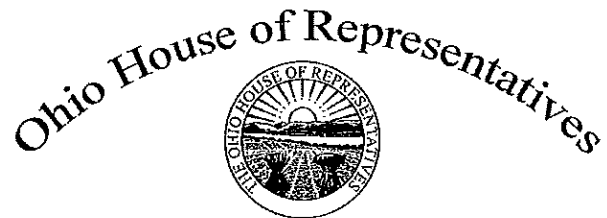
COMMITTEE: Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development
CHAIR: Jonathan Dever
DATE: Tuesday, November 28, 2017
TIME: 9:00 AM
ROOM: Room 114

AGENDA

<u>BILL</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
H. B. No. 390	Rep. Merrin	Clarify computation of timelines for forcible entry and detainer	1st Hearing Sponsor
H. B. No. 386	Rep. Henne, Rep. Kelly	Modify credit reporting agency fees for a credit report freeze	1st Hearing Sponsor
H. B. No. 320	Rep. Hagan, Rep. Roegner	Inform public about state financial status	2nd Hearing Proponent
H. B. No. 353	Rep. Reineke	Exempt loop credit and reward cards from Unclaimed Funds Law	3rd Hearing Poss. Am. Prop/Opp/IP

H. B. No. 282	Rep. Hambley	Prohibit criminal mischief against residential rental property	4th Hearing Poss. Am. Prop/Opp/IP
H. B. No. 329	Rep. Pelanda	Modify law governing pyramid promotional schemes	4th Hearing Poss. Vote Prop/Opp/IP

The Chair respectfully requests **an electronic copy** of oral and/or written testimony and all amendments to
FinancialInstitutionsHousing&UrbanDevelopmentCommittee@ohiohouse.gov at
least 24 hours prior to committee.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE: Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development
CHAIR: Jonathan Dever
DATE: Tuesday, November 28, 2017
TIME: 9:00 AM
ROOM: Room 114

AGENDA

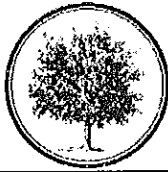
<u>BILL</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
H. B. No. 390	Rep. Merrin	Clarify computation of timelines for forcible entry and detainer	1st Hearing Sponsor
H. B. No. 386	Rep. Henne, Rep. Kelly	Modify credit reporting agency fees for a credit report freeze	1st Hearing Sponsor
H. B. No. 320	Rep. Hagan, Rep. Roegner	Inform public about state financial status	2nd Hearing Proponent
H. B. No. 353	Rep. Reineke	Exempt loop credit and reward cards from Unclaimed Funds Law	3rd Hearing Poss. Am. Prop/Opp/IP
H. B. No. 282	Rep. Hambley	Prohibit criminal mischief against residential rental property	4th Hearing Poss. Am. Prop/Opp/IP
H. B. No. 329	Rep. Pelanda	Modify law governing pyramid promotional schemes	4th Hearing Poss. Vote Prop/Opp/IP

The Chair respectfully requests an **electronic copy** of oral and/or written testimony and all amendments to FinancialInstitutionsHousing&UrbanDevelopmentCommittee@ohiohouse.gov at least 24 hours prior to committee.

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 10:12 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: "Gotta Get Back in Time": Ohio's Prison Population Falls to 2013 Levels,
By Daniel J. Dew

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Ohio's prison population has fallen below 50,000 for the first time since 2013, and Buckeye's Daniel J. Dew looks at some of the policy decisions behind this milestone along with some funny videos to remind us what else was happening in 2013...hint we beat The Team Up North.

= A



= A

Gotta Get Back in Time: Ohio's Prison Population Falls to 2013 Levels

By Daniel J. Dew
November 21, 2017

= A



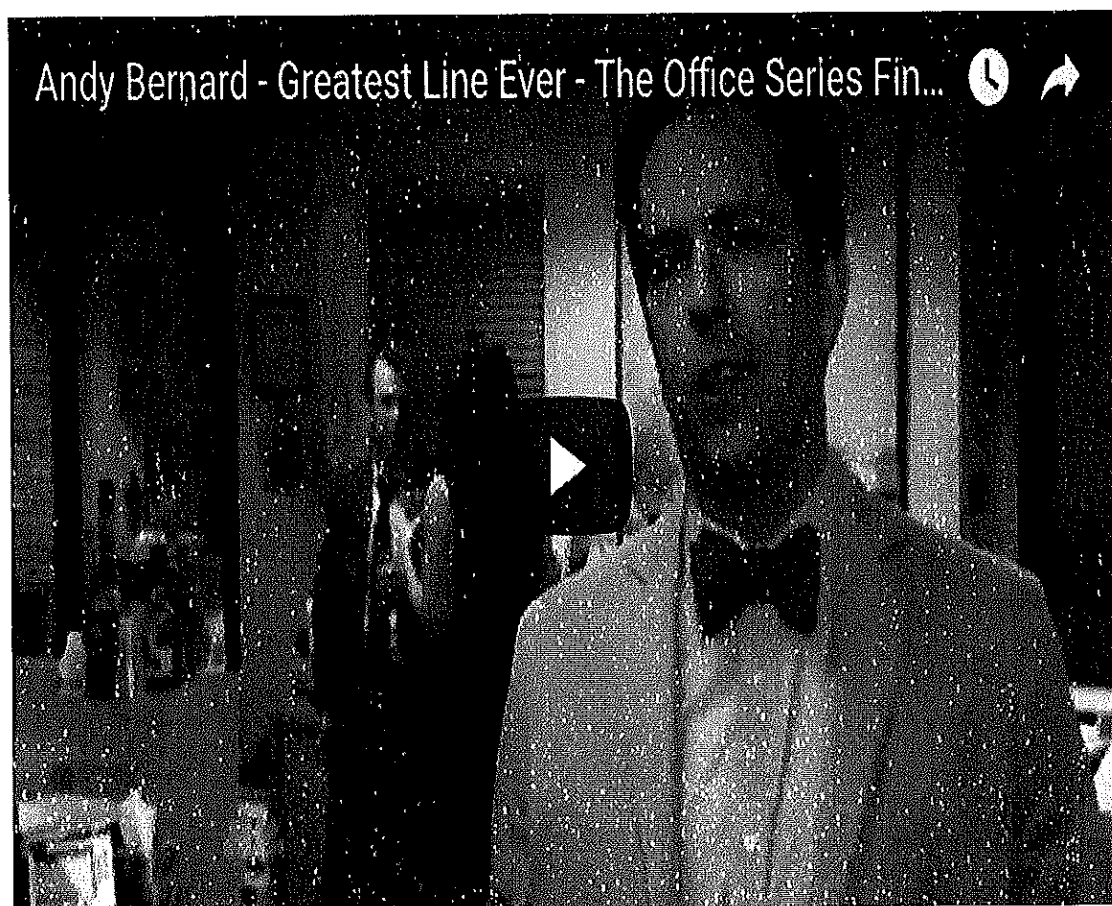
The **Ohio Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations** just released information that Ohio's prison population has fallen below 50,000 down to **49,860**.

That's good news and hasn't happened since 2013, when...

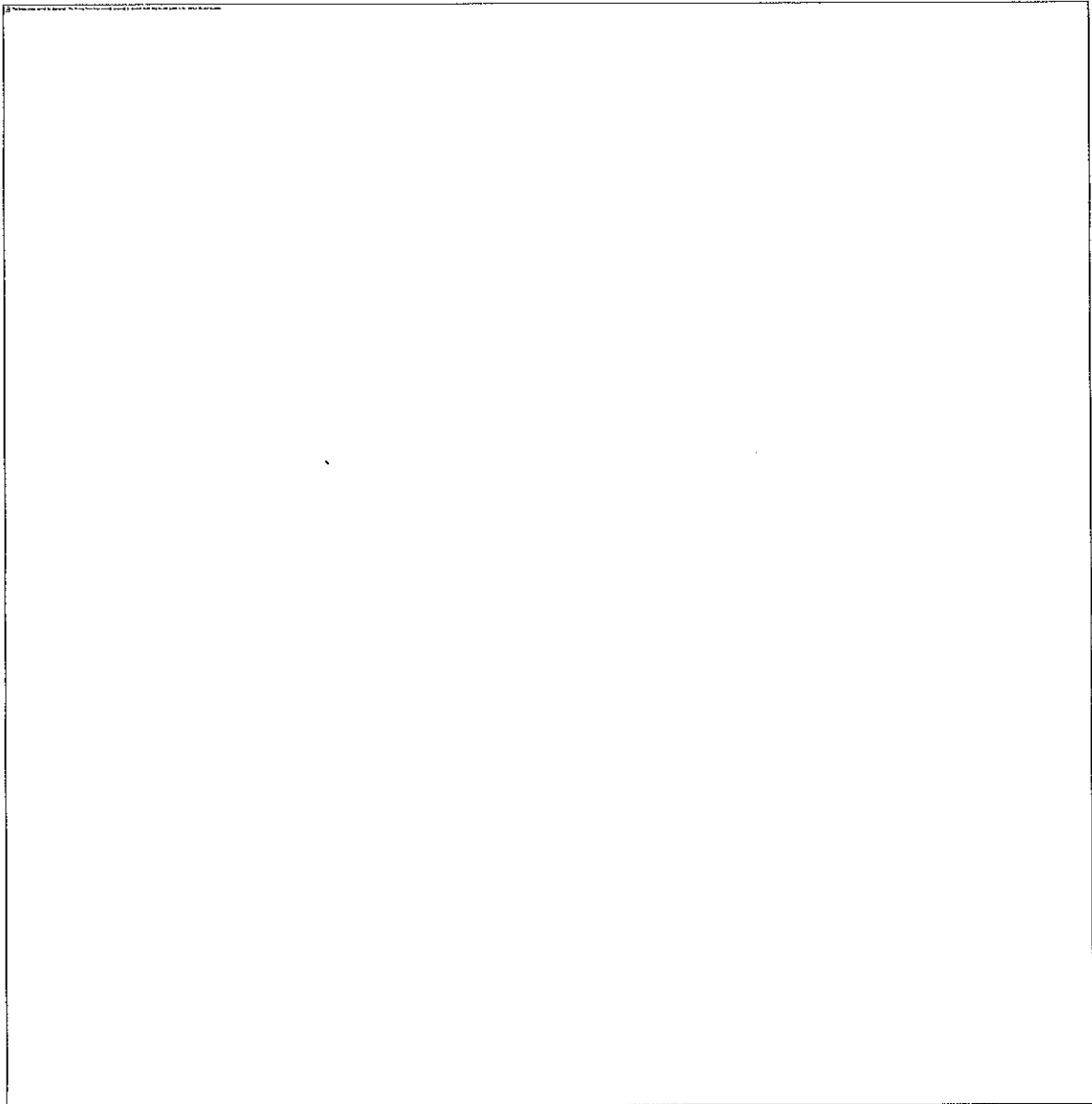
= A

= A

The Office was wrapping up its final season.



Jay Leno was still the host of The Tonight Show.



= A

Everyone was making Harlem Shake videos.



And **Urban Meyer** was coming off his first season at **The Ohio State** where he led the Buckeyes to an **undefeated season**.



Ok, so March 2013 wasn't a super long time ago, but Ohio has not only stopped the increase in its prison population, but is now heading in the right direction.

Ohio policymakers have made a concerted effort to safely reduce the prison population and those efforts are being rewarded. Policies such as **2011's Justice Reinvestment Act** and this year's **Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison (T-CAP)** which rehabilitate low-level offenders outside of prison have proven to be effective.

Ohio's prison system costs taxpayers \$1.8 billion every year. By reexamining criminal justice issues, policymakers are ensuring that those dollars are spent wisely. Good policy ensures that dangerous criminals are off the streets, while those who have made mistakes and can be safely rehabilitated in the community are placed on the path to become responsible citizens.

Ohio is building on its past victories by continuing on the path to a safer, more efficient, criminal justice system through the **Criminal Justice Recodification Committee**, probation and post-release control reform, and the upcoming work of the **Justice Reinvestment 2.0 Ad Hoc Committee**.

Daniel J. Dew is a legal fellow at The Buckeye Institute's Legal Center and an expert in criminal justice reform.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

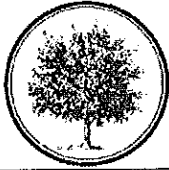
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 7:02 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: ICYMI: Buckeye's President Robert Alt Writes about Worker Voting Rights in Forbes

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

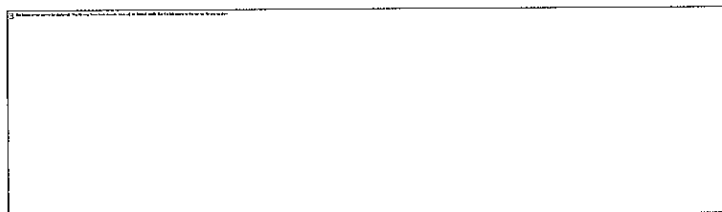
In a newly **published Forbes piece**, Robert Alt, president at The Buckeye Institute, looks at the need for Worker Voting Rights saying: "Our civil servants and public-sector employees deserve to have their voices heard and their choices matter -- they deserve worker voting rights."

Read the complete piece below and learn more about Worker Voting Rights at www.WorkerVotingRights.org.

= A

= A

= A



It's Time For Public Sector Workers To Be Given A Voice And Choice

Forbes

By Robert Alt

November 27, 2017

Early next year, the Supreme Court will hear *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31*. Mark Janus is a child support specialist at the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Service who objects to paying union fees, which are currently a condition of his employment. He argues that the compulsory fees force him to speak through his union in ways that violate his First Amendment rights.

If Mr. Janus prevails, he and other public-sector employees will be able to choose whether or not to pay union dues or fees without threat of being fired, which would be a tremendous victory for workers. However, even if Mr. Janus wins in court, public sector union members will still have no say regarding which union represents their bargaining unit.

Every morning, hardworking men and women in every state drink their coffee and diligently go to work on our behalf -- in our neighborhoods as public school teachers, home care workers, engineers, and in agencies protecting the environment. Unfortunately, while these civic-minded professionals go to work for us, the labor unions that they must join in order to teach our children or serve our communities do not always work for them.

Once a public-sector union is certified, it remains the workers' representative -- potentially forever. In Ohio, for example, the Columbus Education Association has represented Columbus public school teachers since 1968 -- back when the Beatles were still together and before many of today's teachers were even born.

Heirloom unions inherited from the Nixon-era are depriving today's public workers and civil servants of any meaningful voice or choice in their workplace. Ninety-four percent of union workers have **never had the chance to vote for or against their unions** -- and still won't even if Janus succeeds in his case.

When a public-sector union fails to address employee complaints or mis spends union dues, there is no ballot to cast for change. Instead, public employees remain stuck with the hand-me-down unions that workers who wore bell-bottoms chose for them.

There is a solution.

With worker voting rights, public employees would have regular elections to encourage their unions to be more responsive to their members' interests. Worker voting rights gives union workers an opportunity to be heard, to voice their concerns to their union leaders, to better understand how their union dues are spent, and to choose for themselves whether to keep the union they have, vote their union out, or vote in a better union. Worker voting rights would incentivize union leaders to cultivate broader support among the workforce they represent and to be accountable to their rank-and-file members. Not surprisingly, 82% of unionized Americans **favor holding periodic votes on their union representation.**

Once-and-for-all unions that rarely -- if ever -- face re-election have no worry of being fired by their members for poor performance or disregarding members' concerns. In states that require workers to pay "fair share" fees as a condition of employment, union leadership failure has next to no consequences, because whether the union negotiates better working conditions for its members or not, whether it spends union dues wisely or not, whether it meets the needs of its members or not, there is almost nothing public employees can do to replace or remove the poorly performing union. Even if these public employees are dissatisfied with their representation, they have to continue paying their union dues or fair share fees, or else their employment can be legally terminated.

Public-sector unions and their insulated union officials know and count on this questionable practice of denying their members voting rights, allowing unions that are not taking care of their members to remain firmly entrenched regardless of their members' satisfaction. But state lawmakers can guarantee worker voting rights for public employees by providing for regular elections by law.

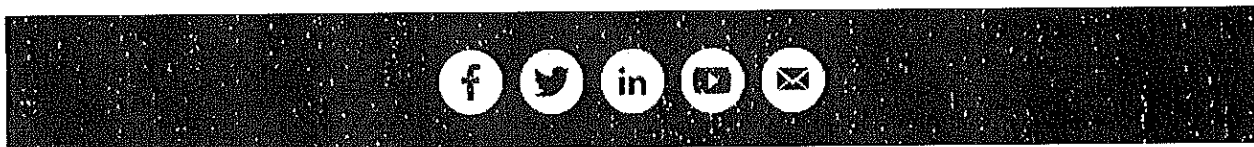
Unions have played a significant role in America's workforce for well over a century. But the interests of the unions themselves should never trump the interests of the hardworking men and women these unions represent. Our civil servants and public-sector employees deserve to have their voices heard and their choices matter -- they deserve worker voting rights.

Robert Alt is President & CEO of The Buckeye Institute in Columbus, Ohio.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



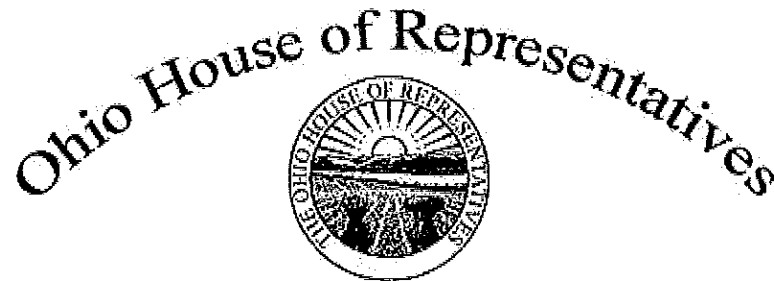
The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Financial Institutions Housing & Urban Development Committee
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2017 12:39 PM
To: Hucke, Justin
Subject: FIHUD Committee Announcement - 12.5.2017
Attachments: notice.pdf



ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETING

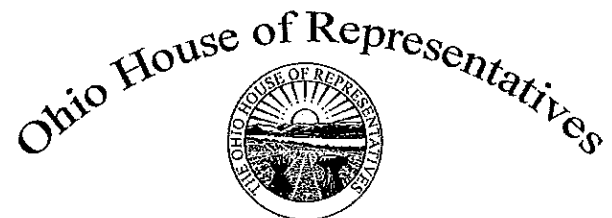
COMMITTEE: Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development
CHAIR: Jonathan Dever
DATE: Tuesday, December 5, 2017
TIME: 9:00 AM
ROOM: Room 114

AGENDA

<u>BILL</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
H. B. No. 386	Rep. Henne, Rep. Kelly	Modify credit reporting agency fees for a credit report freeze	2nd Hearing Proponent
H. B. No. 390	Rep. Merrin	Clarify computation of timelines for forcible entry and detainer	2nd Hearing Proponent
H. B. No. 353	Rep. Reineke	Exempt loop credit and reward cards from Unclaimed Funds Law	4th Hearing Poss. Vote Prop/Opp/IP

The Chair respectfully requests **an electronic copy** of oral and/or written testimony
and all amendments to

FinancialInstitutionsHousing&UrbanDevelopmentCommittee@ohiohouse.gov at
least 24 hours prior to committee.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETING

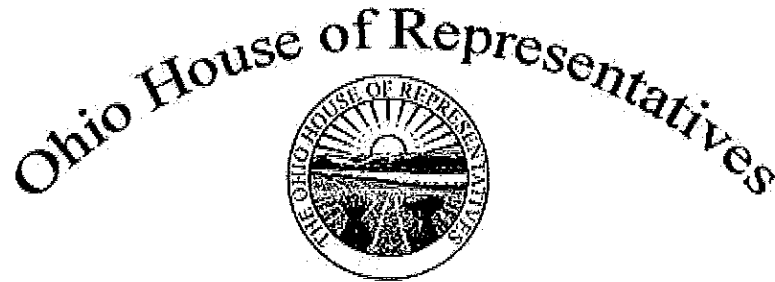
COMMITTEE: Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development
CHAIR: Jonathan Dever
DATE: Tuesday, December 5, 2017
TIME: 9:00 AM
ROOM: Room 114

AGENDA

<u>BILL</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
H. B. No. 386	Rep. Henne, Rep. Kelly	Modify credit reporting agency fees for a credit report freeze	2nd Hearing Proponent
H. B. No. 390	Rep. Merrin	Clarify computation of timelines for forcible entry and detainer	2nd Hearing Proponent
H. B. No. 353	Rep. Reineke	Exempt loop credit and reward cards from Unclaimed Funds Law	4th Hearing Poss. Vote Prop/Opp/IP

The Chair respectfully requests an **electronic copy** of oral and/or written testimony and all amendments to FinancialInstitutionsHousing&UrbanDevelopmentCommittee@ohiohouse.gov at least 24 hours prior to committee.

From: Financial Institutions Housing & Urban Development Committee
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2017 1:50 PM
To: Hucke, Justin
Subject: FIHUD Committee Announcement - 12.12.2017
Attachments: Witness Information form.docx; notice.pdf



ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE: Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development
CHAIR: Jonathan Dever
DATE: Tuesday, December 12, 2017
TIME: 9:00 AM
ROOM: Room 114

AGENDA

<u>BILL</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
H. B. No. 386	Rep. Henne, Rep. Kelly	Modify credit reporting agency fees for a credit report freeze	3rd Hearing Prop/Opp/IP
H. B. No. 390	Rep. Merrin	Clarify computation of timelines for forcible entry and detainer	3rd Hearing Opponent
H. B. No. 182	Rep. Seitz	Address debt adjusting	4th Hearing Poss. Vote Poss. Sub. Bill Prop/Opp/IP

H. B. No.	Rep. Reineke	Exempt loop credit and reward	5th Hearing
353		cards from Unclaimed Funds	Poss. Vote
		Law	Poss. Sub. Bill
			Prop/Opp/IP

The Chair respectfully requests **an electronic copy** of oral and/or written testimony and all amendments to
FinancialInstitutionsHousing&UrbanDevelopmentCommittee@ohiohouse.gov at
least 24 hours prior to committee.

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: _____

Name: _____

Are you representing: Yourself _____ Organization _____

Organization (If Applicable): _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Best Contact Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes _____
No _____

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): _____

Specific Issue: _____

Are you testifying as a: Proponent _____ Opponent _____ Interested Party _____

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes _____
No _____

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? _____

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETING

COMMITTEE: Financial Institutions, Housing, and Urban Development
CHAIR: Jonathan Dever
DATE: Tuesday, December 12, 2017
TIME: 9:00 AM
ROOM: Room 114

AGENDA

<u>BILL</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
H. B. No. 386	Rep. Henne, Rep. Kelly	Modify credit reporting agency fees for a credit report freeze	3rd Hearing Prop/Opp/IP
H. B. No. 390	Rep. Merrin	Clarify computation of timelines for forcible entry and detainer	3rd Hearing Opponent
H. B. No. 182	Rep. Seitz	Address debt adjusting	4th Hearing Poss. Vote Poss. Sub. Bill Prop/Opp/IP
H. B. No. 353	Rep. Reineke	Exempt loop credit and reward cards from Unclaimed Funds Law	5th Hearing Poss. Vote Poss. Sub. Bill Prop/Opp/IP

The Chair respectfully requests **an electronic copy** of oral and/or written testimony and all amendments to FinancialInstitutionsHousing&UrbanDevelopmentCommittee@ohiohouse.gov at least 24 hours prior to committee.

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2017 5:44 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: Proposed Changes to Ohio's Cash Bail Policy are First Step to Fixing Broken System

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

= A

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 7, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

= A

Proposed Changes to Ohio's Cash Bail Policy are First Step to Fixing Broken System

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute issued the following statement upon the introduction of House Bill 439, sponsored by State Representative Jonathan Dever (R-28), which would move Ohio away from an arbitrary cash bail system and give judges more flexibility and more information to detain dangerous defendants before trial.

"Under Ohio's current bail system, pretrial release is determined by the amount of money a person has access to rather than the actual threat the person poses to the community. And the policies proposed today are the first step in reforming a broken system," said **Daniel J. Dew**, a legal fellow with The Buckeye Institute's **Legal Center**. "Ohio's cash bail system

= A

From: Capitol Letter

Sent: Friday, December 8, 2017 6:15 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: Tough talk in opioid lawsuit

= 9

Friday, Dec. 8, 2017

[View in Browser](#)

= 9

= A

= 9



= 9

Capitol Letter

= 9 Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer



Santa discusses gifts with Rhys, 10, and Rylan, 8, Anstine of Westerville during the Ohio Statehouse Holiday Festival and Tree Lighting on Thursday evening.

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9 **Rotunda Rumblings**

= 9

Purdue pushback: OxyContin's manufacturer fired off a letter to Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine saying that it would not simply settle the Republican's lawsuit alleging drug makers created the state's opioid epidemic. If you remember in late October, DeWine, who is also running for governor, told the companies in letters it's time to talk payout. But Purdue Pharma is not lying down -- DeWine's suit will be lengthy and expensive for Ohio, company attorney Maria Barton wrote.

= 9 **Farm aid:** The Ohio Farm Bureau is cheering a state Supreme Court decision that will allow landowners to take complaints about their agricultural land values directly to the Ohio Board of Tax Appeals. Before Thursday's decision, if producers challenged taxes on what are known as "current agricultural use values," they couldn't get anywhere, the bureau's Leah Curtis said, because local officials would defer to the state tax commissioner's guidance on how the land was valued, and the state board refused to hear the appeals.

= 9 **Turf war:** DeWine said Thursday he may go to court to keep the Columbus Crew soccer team from moving to Austin. In a statement, DeWine said that he's "prepared to take the necessary legal action" to ensure that the Crew follows a 1996 state law requiring pro sports teams with tax-supported facilities to give the city or local residents a chance to buy the team before it can leave. Americans for Prosperity-Ohio called DeWine's stance an "attack on private property rights."

= 9 **Get the party started:** The Cuyahoga County Democrats held their annual holiday party on Thursday. Some big names in the governor's race showed up. Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley worked the crowd. Betty Sutton

was at another engagement, but campaign manager Randy Borntrager was spotted. Richard Cordray made a surprise visit (and also got chummy with possible gubernatorial rival Dennis Kucinich).

= 9

Bye, bye Barnhart: One familiar name who won't be operating in Cordrayland during the governor's race is Melissa Barnhart, a prominent Columbus-area Democratic fundraiser. Barnhart is a divisive figure in Franklin County Democratic politics and some said Cordray needed to dump her. Asked Thursday night about her potential involvement, Cordray said bluntly, "She will not have a role in my campaign," formal or otherwise.

= 9

Where's the cheddar? So who is going to raise money for Cordray? He told Capitol Letter he's vetting national help and hopes to announce something in a week or so.

= 9

Judge Jim? Rep. Jim Hughes won't run for re-election next year, choosing instead to seek a common pleas court judgeship. On Wednesday, the Franklin County Republican Party endorsed the Upper Arlington Republican for the bench and endorsed ex-Upper Arlington City Councilman Erik Yassenoff to take over his District 24 seat.

= 9

Seal of approval: Other Franklin County GOP endorsees for open or Democratic-held legislative seats include: Rep. Anne Gonzales for Senate District 3, Jordan Garcia for Senate District 15, Rep. Andrew Brenner for Senate District 19, John Rush for House District 17, David Todd for House District 18, Tim Barhorst for House District 19, Bobby Mitchell for House District 20, and Stu Harris for House District 21.

= 9 **Speaking of endorsements:** Cordray was backed this week by two prominent Cincinnati Democrats: Cincinnati City Councilman PG Sittenfeld and Hamilton County Clerk of Courts Aftab Pureval. Meanwhile, Whaley snagged an endorsement from Lima Mayor David Berger, her campaign announced Thursday.

= 9 **Cyberattack:** The Ohio Democratic Party has a new website, DeWineHusted2018.com, targeting DeWine and running mate Jon Husted on issues ranging from DeWine suing Planned Parenthood to Husted's attempts to rein in early voting.

= 9

= 9 **Stories We're Talking About**

= 9 **Leaving, but not leaving:** Capitol Letter's Jeremy Pelzer was first to report that Democratic gubernatorial candidate Bill O'Neill will announce Friday that he plans to resign from the Ohio Supreme Court at a later date. O'Neill is going back on his previous declaration that he would drop out of the governor's race once Richard Cordray got in.

= 9

Not leaving and not settling: Republican Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, contrary to rumors, is not going to run for any office besides governor next year, she told cleveland.com's Seth A. Richardson. One reason she wants to stay in the race? The way things stand, if Mike DeWine wins the nomination, the entire GOP statewide slate will be white men. That lack of diversity is a problem, she said.

= 9 **Home rule rules:** Cleveland and other communities won two significant court victories over state government Thursday. A Cuyahoga County judge upheld a challenge to a state law that restricted municipalities' ability to control the placement of wireless cell equipment in public spaces, cleveland.com's Jackie Borchardt reports. And an appeals court upheld Cleveland's "Fannie Lewis" law that requires contractors on big government jobs to hire local workers, cleveland.com's Andrew J. Tobias reports. State lawmakers tried to preempt the law.

= 9 **High-tech tools in the opioid battle:** The Ohio Third Frontier Commission awarded \$10 million to advance technologies that will battle drug abuse and addiction, Capitol Letter's Laura Hancock reports. It's part of an initiative announced by Gov. John Kasich during his State of the State speech. Among the recipients are the University of Akron and two Northeast Ohio companies.

= 9

Ethical problem: = 2Ohio's top IT official breached state ethics rules when he solicited a \$37,000 conference sponsorship fee from a contractor whose projects he oversaw," according to the Ohio inspector general, Borchardt reports. The case of Stuart Davis, chief information officer for the Department of Administrative Services has been referred to prosecutors.

= 9 **Another hat in the ring:** Republican State Sen. Troy Balderson is jumping into the race to succeed resigning U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi in the 12 District, the Zanesville Times Recorder reports.

= 9 **Conference call:** Republican Ohio U.S. Sen Rob Portman will play a key role in crafting the final GOP tax package in the U.S. Congress, reports cleveland.com's Stephen Koff. Portman is the only Ohioan on the conference committee that will settle the differences between the House and Senate versions.

= 9 **What's Going On Today**

= 9 **Friday 9:30 a.m. – Sherrod Brown to visit Cleveland insurance enrollment site:** The Democratic U.S. senator will use the visit to alert Ohioans about ways to enroll in a new health-care plan or update their current coverage before the Dec. 15 deadline. *12201 Euclid Ave., Cleveland.*

= 9

Friday 6:30 p.m. – Kasich, billionaire CEOs to discuss workforce innovation: Gov. John Kasich is scheduled to join ex-Google CEO Eric Schmidt and L Brands CEO Les Wexner to talk about how technology affects workforce development. *Great Hall Meeting Room, Ohio Union, Ohio State University, 1739 N. High St.*

= 9 **Saturday 9 a.m. – state vehicle surplus auction:** 31 motorcycles and 45 Dodge chargers will be among cars, trucks and SUVs for sale. *Ohio General Services Division headquarters, 4200 Surface Road.*

= 9 **Saturday 3 to 5 p.m. – Rep. Michael Sheehy to host health care town hall:** The Toledo Democrat and local public-health officials will help residents sign up for insurance coverage. *Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Maumee Branch, 501 River Rd., Maumee.*

= 9

Five Questions

= 9 Jerry Wray is the director of the Ohio Department of Transportation.

= 9 1. *ODOT's been working a lot with autonomous vehicle technology. What's the ultimate goal for that at the end of the day?*

= 9

"With the improvements to the vehicles and the improvements to the system, ...we can see a day when we will dramatically reduce or maybe eliminate serious accidents and fatalities. So that's the big payoff."

= 9

2. *Are any specific projects a priority for the department right now?*

= 9

"Our number-one responsibility is to maintain the system. ...Over 90 percent of our resources go toward just taking care of what we have. ...Somebody hits the guardrail in Cuyahoga County every day."

= 9 3. *What's something personally you would like to see among Ohio's transportation network?*

= 9 "We've always financed the transportation system with basically the gas tax. ~~2~~ 0As we look to the future, that's probably not going to be as good a system as what we've had in the past, because we're going to have more fuel-efficient vehicles. ...I think it will ultimately be some form of [paying based on] vehicle miles traveled, and you'll pay that regardless of what kind of vehicle you have."

= 9 4. *Do you personally like driving? Do you go on road trips?*

= 9

"I personally like driving. ...I happen to commute from Newark to Columbus, so I have a really rough commute. It's a very congested area in the morning ...There have been times in the winter when what should have been about a 15-minute drive is a 2-hour drive. So I experience the frustration and delay and inconvenience that other motorists do around the state."

= 9

5. *You first started working for ODOT in 1969. How has the department, as an organization, changed since then?*

= 9 "The change is dramatic. We have become so much more professional,

so much more efficient. ...It used to be sloppy and inefficient, and we were sort of a typical government agency. That's no longer the case."

= 9

Birthdays

= 9 William Bebb, Ohio's 19th governor (1802-1873)

= 9Straight From The Source

= 9 "Ohio progressives know that for real change to be realized it's best to fight in the court of law and court of public opinion."

= 9

- ProgressOhio Executive Director Sandy Theis, on the group awarding its 2017 Progressive Hero Award to "The Resistance" and ACLU Ohio.

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

One of our aims with Capitol Letter is frequent communication with you, the reader. We value your thoughts and suggestions about the newsletter. What do you think of it? What features do you like? What could we do better? Is there a topic you'd like to see us address? And what time would you like to receive the newsletter? We've been sending it at about 6:15 a.m. Would you like it to arrive earlier? We value your feedback and are committed to making Capitol Letter your essential first read of the morning. Email us at Capitolletter@cleveland.com.

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9

= 9 To ensure receipt of our emails, please add
cleveland.com_newsletters@update.cleveland.com to your address book or safe sender list.
You received this email because you opted-in to the newsletter. Was it forwarded to you? [Sign
up now!](#)

= 9

= 9

= 9 [UNSUBSCRIBE](#) | [PRIVACY POLICY](#) | [CONTACT US](#)

= 9

= 9

:9

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2017 1:20 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: New Buckeye Report Finds Ohio's "Money Bail" System is Dangerous to Communities

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

= A

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 11, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

New Buckeye Report Finds Ohio's "Money Bail" System is Dangerous to Communities

Columbus, OH -- Today, The Buckeye Institute released its latest policy report, *"Money Bail": Making Ohio a More Dangerous Place to Live*, which looks at the need for Ohio to replace its failing cash bail system with proven risk-assessment tools that provide a fairer, more efficient way to keep Ohio's communities safe and secure.

"The traditional money bail scheme is in dire need of reform, it is an inefficient, expensive, unfair means of protecting communities that has proven no guarantee to stopping repeat offenders," said **Daniel J. Dew**, a legal fellow with The Buckeye Institute's **Legal Center** and author of the report. "Under our current system, accused murderers, child rapists, and armed robbers are arrested and released into our communities because they have access to

money, while citizens accused of jaywalking, violating dress-codes, or failing to pay traffic tickets sit in jail for days, weeks, or even months because they have little or no access to cash. We can and must to better."

Recommendations and Alternative Tools

In *Money Bail*, Dew recommends the use of evidence-based, risk-assessment tools to assess the risk an individual poses, such as their criminal history, the offense, and prior missed court dates. These tools give judges greater flexibility and resources to hold defendants accountable pending trial, and to deny release when there is clear evidence that the accused poses significant risks to the community. Dew also suggests a number of alternatives to cash bail, such as electronic monitoring, mandatory counseling, and routine check-ins that allow judges to hold defendants accountable.

Proven Success of Risk-Assessment Tools

The risk-assessment tools Dew recommends have proven successful in communities where they have been used. **Lucas County** has seen more defendants released before trial, more defendants appearing for trial, and less crime committed by those awaiting trial. Defendants arrested while on pretrial release dropped from 20 percent to 10 percent, and skipped court dates dropped by 12 percent, even as the number of people released without money bail doubled.

Where the Current System Failed

Dew also looks at 11 cases in Ohio where the current money bail system failed, including that of **Dragan Sekulic** of Stark County, who, after attempting to kill his ex-wife with his car, was released on \$100,000 bond. While he awaited trial, he shot and killed Zeljka.

On the other end of the spectrum is the case of **Markcus Brown** who spent nine days in jail after being arrested for trespassing when his clothes violated the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority's dress code. After his arrest, Brown's bail was set at \$150, which his family could not afford. As a result, Brown sat in jail until his mother secured a car title loan nine days later.

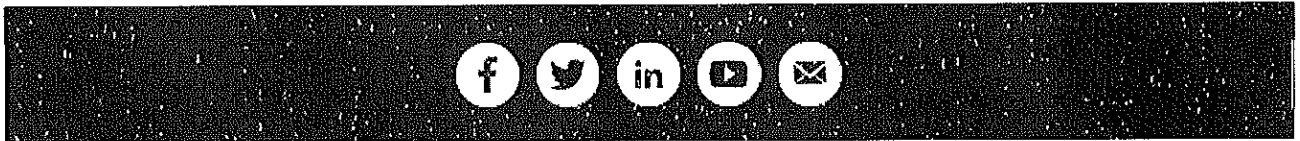
"The Buckeye Institute's expose on money bail is a disturbing indictment of a justice system that often jails poor people for petty crimes, and allows those accused of sexual and violent crimes to buy their way to freedom," said Holly Harris of the **Justice Action Network**. "Fortunately, we now have legislation in HB 439 that would empower judges to make pre-trial release decisions based on the threat an accused person poses to society, and not on how much cash that person can pony up to the court. Given the disturbing case studies on money bail unearthed by Buckeye, some of which led to heartbreaking deaths, it is difficult to imagine any legislator on either side of the aisle voting against this bill."

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

= A



= A

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 3:00 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Competition in Ohio's Electricity Market Will Save Ohioans Money and Improve Economy

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 12, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Competition in Ohio's Electricity Market Will Save Ohioans Money and Improve Economy

Greg Lawson Offers Testimony to Ohio House Public Utilities Committee

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson submitted **written testimony** (see full text below) today to the Ohio House Public Utilities Committee on the need to increase competition in Ohio's electricity market and the important reform policies found in House Bill 247.

Lawson opened his testimony outlining the challenge Ohio faces, "Ohio's hybrid restructuring model is unworkable and policymakers must either go back to a fully integrated, regulated structure or complete the electricity market reforms that the General Assembly initiated in 1999."

In making this case, Lawson illustrated the need for further reform to increase competition and lower prices if Ohio is going to continue to experience economic growth.

"Manufacturing is the single largest sector in the state in terms of gross domestic product and manufacturers typically count electricity as one of their largest expenditures." Lawson went on, "Technology companies are increasingly counting Ohio as a candidate for new sites, and a more competitive electricity market should help to attract and retain these investments."

= A

Lawson noted that reforms proposed in House Bill 247 would:

- Allow many Ohio households and businesses to save money on their electric bill and put it towards other uses;
- Permit the **Public Utilities Commission of Ohio** or the courts to issue refunds to customers for electric company charges that are deemed improper; and
- Would increase competition by ending non-transparent price schemes that can facilitate anti-competitive and unfair cross-subsidization between utilities and power plants they own through affiliated companies.

These types of reforms, Lawson says, "Would make Ohio a better place to do business and make it easier for low-income individuals to pay their electric bills."

###

**Interested Party Testimony
Submitted to the Ohio House Public Utilities Committee
on House Bill 247**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions
December 12, 2017**

Chairman Cupp, Vice Chairman Carfagna, Ranking Member Ashford, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak about the important electricity market reform policies found in House Bill 247. My name is Greg R. Lawson and I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, a free-market think tank here in Columbus.

There is a serious problem at hand in our electric market that requires good policy to fix: Wholesale electricity prices have fallen dramatically since 2009, but the retail price that

customers actually pay has only continued to increase.[1] This problem is holding back the Ohio economy.

Historically, it is now clear that Ohio's hybrid restructuring model is unworkable and policymakers must either go back to a fully integrated, regulated structure or complete the electricity market reforms that the General Assembly initiated in 1999.

Manufacturing is the single largest sector in the state in terms of gross domestic product,[2] and manufacturers typically count electricity as one of their largest expenditures. Making the electricity market more price competitive will help this important sector to compete on the global market and continue to employ Ohioans.

Low-cost electricity is also a key factor for data centers and other infrastructure of the information sector. Technology companies are increasingly counting Ohio as a candidate for new sites, and a more competitive electricity market should help to attract and retain these investments. Critically, the issue of cross-subsidization must be addressed. Electric utilities must not be able to obtain anticompetitive subsidies for affiliate generation. Allowing this to happen undermines the market.

Policies within HB 247 would appear to improve Ohio's present state of competitiveness.

First, it would eliminate electric security plans (ESP). Historically, Ohio's electric utilities have used these plans to inflate rates above the market price. Eliminating these plans would require electric utilities to only charge customers the market price for generation, not an ESP inflated price. This reform would therefore allow many Ohio households and businesses to save money on their electric bill and put it towards other uses.

Second, it would permit the **Public Utilities Commission of Ohio** or the courts to issue refunds to customers for charges that are deemed improper. This provision would force the ratemaking procedure to be more transparent and fairer on the front side by ensuring that customers can be fully made whole.

Third, it would restrict monopoly utilities from owning power plants, even through an affiliate company. While eliminating ESPs alone may be able to limit potential cross-subsidization from these relationships, a requirement that electric utilities fully divest their generation assets would guarantee that utility affiliated generation cannot gain an unfair competitive advantage. Further, in light of the millions of dollars of transition revenues that

utilities have already collected over the years, such separation is less draconian today than it was in the early days of restructuring.

In all likelihood, requiring owners of generation to be fully independent of any regulated utility would increase the competitiveness of the sector and lead to a more favorable outcome for Ohioans over the long run.[3]

In conclusion, Ohio is in desperate need of greater competitiveness, transparency, and fairness in its electricity market. Reforms such as, or similar to, those in HB 247 would make Ohio a better place to do business and make it easier for low-income individuals to pay their electric bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

[1] Russ Keller, "Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement: H.B. 247 of the 132nd General Assembly, As Introduced," Ohio Legislative Service Commission, November 28, 2017.

[2] *Ohio Illustrated: A Visual Guide to Taxes & the Economy*, The Buckeye Institute and Tax Foundation, June 7, 2017.

[3] Joe Nichols and Devin Hartman, *Don't Short Circuit the Ohio Electricity Market*, The Buckeye Institute and RStreet Institute, October 16, 2017.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Hinman, Will

Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 12:41 PM

To: Committee_PublicUtilities_List_ALL; Committee_PublicUtilities_List_DEM;
Committee_PublicUtilities_List_GOP

Subject: Additional written testimony from yesterday's House Public Utilities
Committee (12-12-17)

Attachments: buckeyeinstitute.IP.hb247.written.pdf

Members of the House Public Utilities Committee,

Please see the attached document, it is written interested party testimony on HB 247 from Greg Lawson with Buckeye Institute. It was unintentionally omitted from yesterday's hearing, but will be added to the record to reflect that it was submitted to our office prior to the start of committee yesterday. Let me know if there are questions.



Will Hinman

Legislative Aide to State Representative Bob Cupp

Ohio House of Representatives

will.hinman@ohiohouse.gov

(614) 466-9624

77 South High Street, 13th Floor

Columbus, OH 43215





THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

**Interested Party Testimony Before the
Ohio House Public Utilities Committee on
House Bill 247**

December 12, 2017

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions**

Chairman Cupp, Vice Chairman Carfagna, Ranking Member Ashford, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak about the important electricity market reform policies found in House Bill 247. My name is Greg R. Lawson and I am the Research Fellow at The Buckeye Institute, a free-market think tank here in Columbus.

There is a serious problem at hand in our electric market that requires good policy to fix: Wholesale electricity prices have fallen dramatically since 2009, but the retail price that customers actually pay has only continued to increase.¹ This problem is holding back the Ohio economy.

Historically, it is now clear that Ohio's hybrid restructuring model is unworkable and policymakers must either go back to a fully integrated, regulated structure or complete the electricity market reforms that the General Assembly initiated in 1999.

Manufacturing is the single largest sector in the state in terms of Gross Domestic Product,² and manufacturers typically count electricity as one of their largest expenditures. Making the electricity market more price competitive will help this important sector to compete on the global market and continue to employ Ohioans.

Low-cost electricity is also a key factor for data centers and other infrastructure of the information sector. Technology companies are increasingly counting Ohio as a candidate for new sites, and a more competitive electricity market should help to attract and retain these investments. Critically, the issue of cross-subsidization must be addressed. Electric utilities must not be able to obtain anticompetitive subsidies for affiliate generation. Allowing this to happen undermines the market.

¹ Russ Keller, "Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement: H.B. 247 of the 132nd General Assembly, As Introduced," Ohio Legislative Service Commission, November 28, 2017, <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=8111&format=pdf>.

² The Buckeye Institute and Tax Foundation, "Ohio Illustrated: A Visual Guide to Taxes & the Economy," June 7, 2017, <https://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/library/doclib/2017-06-07-Ohio-Illustrated-A-Visual-Guide-to-Taxes-And-the-Economy.pdf>.

Policies within HB 247 would appear to improve Ohio's present state of competitiveness.

First, it would eliminate electric security plans (ESPs). Historically, Ohio's electric utilities have used these plans to inflate rates above the market price. Eliminating these plans would require electric utilities to only charge customers the market price for generation, not an ESP-inflated price. This reform would therefore allow many Ohio households and businesses to save money on their electric bill and put it towards other uses.

Second, it would permit the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio or the courts to issue refunds to customers for charges that are deemed improper. This provision would force the ratemaking procedure to be more transparent and fairer on the front side by ensuring that customers can be fully made whole.

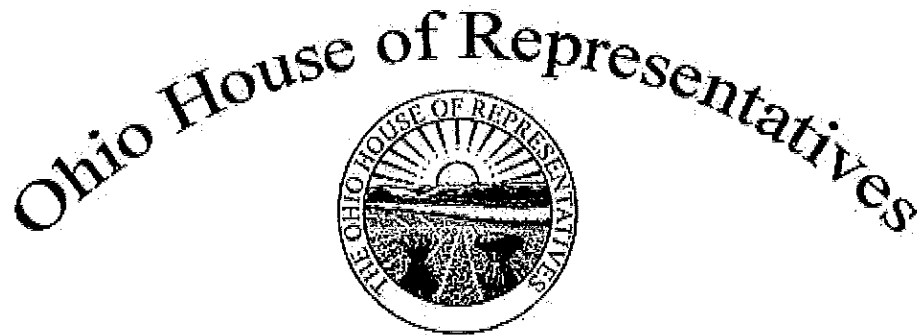
Third, it would restrict monopoly utilities from owning power plants, even through an affiliate company. While eliminating ESPs alone may be able to limit potential cross-subsidization from these relationships, a requirement that electric utilities fully divest their generation assets would guarantee that utility affiliated generation cannot gain an unfair competitive advantage. Further, in light of the millions of dollars of transition revenues that utilities have already collected over the years, such separation is less draconian today than it was in the early days of restructuring.

In all likelihood, requiring owners of generation to be fully independent of any regulated utility would increase the competitiveness of the sector and lead to a more favorable outcome for Ohioans over the long run.³

In conclusion, Ohio is in desperate need of greater competitiveness, transparency, and fairness in its electricity market. Reforms such as, or similar to, those in HB 247 would make Ohio a better place to do business and make it easier for low-income individuals to pay their electric bills. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

³ Joe Nichols and Devin Hartman, "Don't Short Circuit the Ohio Electricity Market," The Buckeye Institute and R Street Institute, <https://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/library/doclib/2017-10-16-Don-t-Short-Circuit-the-Ohio-Electricity-Market-By-Joe-Nichols-and-Devin-Hartman.pdf>.

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 11:38 AM
To: Michalowski, Joe
Subject: Becker Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments
Attachments: Co-sponsor Request- Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments.pdf



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: Friday, December 15, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one or more of the below:

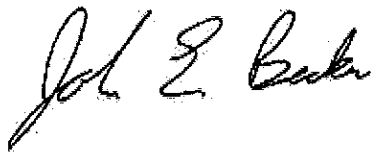
1. Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this will tell the world that Ohio is "open for business."
2. Public-sector Right-to-Work – This is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
3. Public-sector Prevailing Wage – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.

4. Public-sector Paycheck Protection – This prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers' wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers' money on political activities without workers' consent.
5. Public-sector Project Labor Agreements – This is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from engaging in contracts that minimize competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.
6. Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers' bargaining units. This will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

These proposals simply ask the General Assembly to put them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov. Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.**

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.



John Becker
State Representative
65th House District

Ohio House of Representatives



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: Friday, December 15, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one or more of the below:

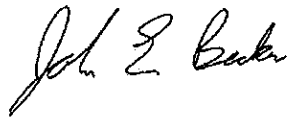
1. Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”
2. Public-sector Right-to-Work – This is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
3. Public-sector Prevailing Wage – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
4. Public-sector Paycheck Protection – This prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers’ wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers’ money on political activities without workers’ consent.
5. Public-sector Project Labor Agreements – This is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from engaging in contracts that minimize competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.
6. Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers’ bargaining units. This will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

These proposals simply ask the General Assembly to put them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio’s neighboring states

have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov. Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.**

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Becker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John Becker
State Representative
65th House District

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 7:04 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: New Buckeye Report Finds Occupational Licensing Hits Older and Lower-Income Workers Hardest

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 18, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

New Buckeye Report Finds Occupational Licensing Hits Older and Lower-Income Workers Hardest

Columbus, OH -- Today, The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center released its latest policy report, *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*. The report found that the burden of Ohio's occupational licensing requirements has a greater impact on middle-aged and low-income workers, and those without a college degree. In essence, occupational licensing erects barriers to employment to those most in need of good-paying jobs.

"This research offers more evidence of the negative impact of occupational licensing. We have known for years that licensing requirements reduce job creation in Ohio and make it harder for people to get jobs," said Greg R. Lawson, a research fellow at The Buckeye Institute and one of the authors of the report. "This study shows that licensing requirements

also impose a disproportionate burden on job seekers -- placing a particularly onerous burden on low-income, minority, and non-college educated Ohioans."

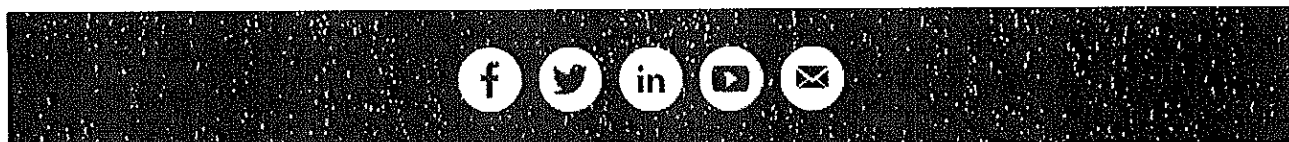
Using a macroeconomic dynamic scoring model -- developed by economists at Buckeye's **Economic Research Center** -- and data collected by the **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics**, the report's authors discovered that Ohio's licensing requirements have prevented more than 7,000 people between the ages of 25-45 from pursuing licensed occupations, and has discouraged people from migrating to Ohio to enter the job market. The authors also discovered that high licensing costs keep workers from good-paying professions, and suggests that without such costs more workers would find employment.

Still Forbidden to Succeed was authored by Dr. Orphe Pierre Divounguy, former economist with The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center; Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute; and Bryce Hill, a former economic research assistant with the Economic Research Center. This new study builds on Buckeye's previous research on occupational licensing, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back*.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



= A

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 12:05 PM
To: Best, Carolyn; Westlake, Libby; Miller, Brad; Slack, Cora
CC: Michalowski, Joe; Lenzo, Mike; Lundregan, Scott
Subject: ALERT: Becker Right-to-Work (Sending @ 1)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:
December 18, 2017

Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134

State Representative John Becker Announces Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

COLUMBUS—State Representative John Becker (R-Union Township) today announced six Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments as follows:

- Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this amendment will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”
- Public-sector Right-to-Work – This legislation is about freedom of association. The same as the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
- Public-sector Prevailing Wage – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
- Public-sector Paycheck Protection – This amendment prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers’ wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers’ money on political activities without workers’ consent.
- Public-sector Project Labor Agreements – This legislation is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from minimizing competition for

construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.

- Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers' bargaining units. This amendment will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

With these proposals, Becker asks Ohio's General Assembly to put all of them on the ballot for the people to vote on individually.

"Now that 28 states, and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states, have enacted Right-to-Work laws, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment," said Becker. "Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future."

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 12:09 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: FW: Becker Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments
Attachments: Co-sponsor Request- Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments.pdf

Here's the link to the article he sent me as well as the co-sponsor request.

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 10:55 AM
To: Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: FW: Becker Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

Alex,

Rep. Becker is already receiving negative media about a co-sponsor request we sent on Friday to GOP Members only. Here is the link to the story:
<http://plunderbund.com/2017/12/18/six-ways-to-screw-over-ohio-workers-john-beckers-christmas-wish-list/>

I will send you the press release as soon as it becomes available. Thanks!

Joe Michalowski

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215-6108
Office: (614) 466-8134 | joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov

From: Michalowski, Joe
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 11:38 AM
To: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: Becker Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

Ohio House of Representatives



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: Friday, December 15, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one or more of the below:

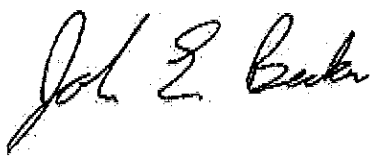
1. Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”
2. Public-sector Right-to-Work – This is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
3. Public-sector Prevailing Wage – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
4. Public-sector Paycheck Protection – This prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers' wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers' money on political activities without workers' consent.

5. Public-sector Project Labor Agreements – This is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from engaging in contracts that minimize competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.
6. Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers' bargaining units. This will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

These proposals simply ask the General Assembly to put them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov. Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.**

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.



John Becker
State Representative
65th House District

Ohio House of Representatives



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: Friday, December 15, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one or more of the below:

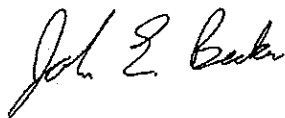
1. Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”
2. Public-sector Right-to-Work – This is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
3. Public-sector Prevailing Wage – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
4. Public-sector Paycheck Protection – This prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers’ wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers’ money on political activities without workers’ consent.
5. Public-sector Project Labor Agreements – This is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from engaging in contracts that minimize competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.
6. Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers’ bargaining units. This will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

These proposals simply ask the General Assembly to put them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio’s neighboring states

have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov. Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. **The deadline to co-sponsor is Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.**

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Becker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John Becker
State Representative
65th House District

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 12:55 PM
To: Kasych, Shawn; Dittoe, Michael
Subject: FW: ALERT: Becker Right-to-Work (Sending @ 1)

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 12:05 PM
To: Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>
Cc: Michalowski, Joe <Joe.Michalowski@ohiohouse.gov>; Lenzo, Mike <Mike.Lenzo@ohiohouse.gov>; Lundregan, Scott <Scott.Lundregan@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: ALERT: Becker Right-to-Work (Sending @ 1)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

For Immediate Release:
December 18, 2017

Contact: Joe Michalowski
(614) 466-8134

State Representative John Becker Announces Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

COLUMBUS—State Representative John Becker (R-Union Township) today announced six Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments as follows:

- Private-sector Right-to-Work – No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this amendment will tell the world that Ohio is “open for business.”

- Public-sector Right-to-Work – This legislation is about freedom of association. The same as the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
- Public-sector Prevailing Wage – Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
- Public-sector Paycheck Protection – This amendment prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers' wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers' money on political activities without workers' consent.
- Public-sector Project Labor Agreements – This legislation is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from minimizing competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.
- Public-sector Union Recertification – Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers' bargaining units. This amendment will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

With these proposals, Becker asks Ohio's General Assembly to put all of them on the ballot for the people to vote on individually.

"Now that 28 states, and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states, have enacted Right-to-Work laws, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment," said Becker. "Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future."

From: report@hannah.com
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2017 6:30 PM
To: DL__Hannah
Subject: Hannah News Stories for Monday, December 18, 2017

Monday, December 18, 2017

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

- [Kasich Seeks to Give Last 'State of State' in Westerville on March 6](#)
- [Kasich Names Laubert Acting Director of ODA](#)
- [Senate Plans to Address Voting Machine Funding, Obhof Says](#)
- [Controlling Board Approves Combined DYS/DRC Office Lease](#)
- [IG Chides DAS for IT Procurement Practices](#)
- [Becker Proposes Six Right to Work Constitutional Amendments](#)
- [ODH Elevates Flu Level to 'Widespread'](#)
- [Turnpike Commission Approves Budgets, Toll Modernization Plans](#)
- [OSU Toy Adaptation Program Helps Fix Toys for Children with Special Needs](#)
- [By the Numbers: Legislative Activity in 2017](#)
- [State Government Roundup: ODNR](#)
- [Campaign Corner: Jolivette; Endorsements](#)
- [Ohio Digest: U.S. HHS](#)
- [Ohio Attorney General Opinion Request](#)
- [Judicial Actions: Parades; Opinion](#)

© 2017 Hannah News Service, Inc., Columbus, Ohio. Unauthorized redistribution or reproduction prohibited.

Hannah News Service, Inc. | 21 W. Broad Street, Suite 1000, Columbus, Ohio 43215 | 614.227.5820 | www.hannah.com

= A

From: Capitol Letter

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 6:16 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: Lawmaker drafts six right-to-work constitutional amendments

= 9

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017

= 9[View in Browser](#)



= 9

= A

= 9

= 9

Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock and Jeremy Pelzer

= 9

= A

= 9

Action Alert: Rally and March for Retirement Security Set for June 7 in Columbus

Tell Legislators and SERS: KEEP THE PROMISE, PROTECT PENSIONS

OAPSE is fighting to save your pension and your retirement security. We are pushing back against Senate Bill 151 (SB151) and a proposed freeze and reduction in the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for current and future retirees under SERS. **We hope you will join us!**

Click on the videos below to get current information about the proposed COLA cuts and how you can help by joining us for Lobby Day in Columbus on June 7.



You should have received a phone call from Director Joe Rugola, and you will receive an email with the latest on the most up-to-date details as we get closer to June 7. **We are encouraging members from all over Ohio to carpool to Columbus for the Wednesday, June 7 Rally.** We will meet at the Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square, 75 E. State St., Columbus, Ohio 43215.



Registration opens at 9:30 a.m. on the Sheraton second floor. That's where you will receive your t-shirt. At 10:30 a.m., we will start our day with a brief meeting that will include the latest information on the status of the COLA issue and an overview of the day's activities. We will provide lunch before we march together over to the Statehouse and then onto SERS.

OAPSE will pay mileage and parking to drivers, and we are encouraging carpools. **Please fill your cars!** In addition to your t-shirt and lunch, we will provide \$15 to attendees to cover other food expenses during your day.

We plan to finish up by 3 p.m. so you can beat rush hour traffic out of town.

**To help us plan, please RSVP by calling Rob Fantauzzo at the state office on our toll-free number,
1-800-786-2773.**

See you in Columbus on June 7!

STAY CONNECTED:



OAPSE/AFSCME Local 4, 6805 Oak Creek Drive, Columbus, OH 43229

[SafeUnsubscribe™ bphillips@zoominternet.net](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

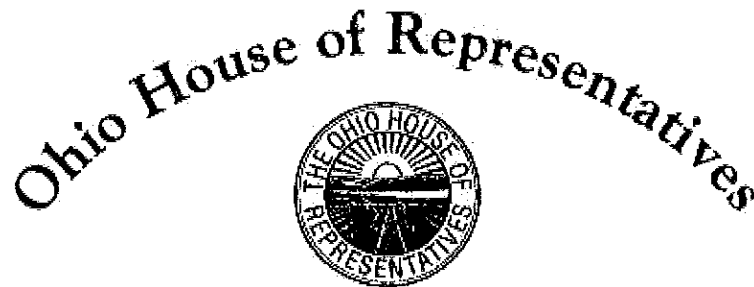
Sent by kmalone@oapse.org in collaboration with



Try it free today

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The School Employees Retirement System of Ohio intends this e-mail message, and any attachments, to be used only by the person(s) or entity to which it is addressed. This message may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. If the reader is not the intended recipient of this message or an employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you are prohibited from printing, copying, storing, disseminating or distributing this communication. If you received this communication in error, please delete it from your computer and notify the sender by reply e-mail.

From: Springhetti, Blake
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2017 1:29 PM
To: House_All
Subject: Co-Sponsor Request: Reduced Mandated Sick Days for Public Employees
Attachments: Co-Sponsor Request - Reducing Mandated Sick Days for Public Employees.pdf



Representative Derek Merrin
47th District

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Derek Merrin
DATE: June 2, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Reduced Mandated Sick Days for Public Employees

I will soon introduce legislation to align public employees' sick day allotment with the standard allotment for state public employees.

State employees receive 10 sick days per year, while many local government employees receive an excessive 15 sick days per year (3 weeks). This legislation makes 10 sick days per year the standard across the board - impacting county, municipal, civil service township, school district, and university employees. This will help create fairness between state and local government employees. The bill contains a provision that restricts collective bargaining agreements from requiring local governments to provide more than the state mandated number of 10 sick days annually.

By forcing local governments/taxpayers to provide an excessive number of sick days, the state is driving-up local governments' costs. You will be hard pressed to find any private-

sector business that provides 15 sick days annually. Also, government employees receive additional, generous amounts of personal days and vacation leave. The legislature created this excessive mandate and it is time for us to fix it. Please join with me to support a reasonable standard and provide relief to our local governments.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov or at (614) 466-1731 by **Tuesday, June 13**.

Sincerely,
Derek Merrin

Ohio House of Representatives



Representative Derek Merrin
47th District

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Derek Merrin
DATE: June 2, 2017
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Reduced Mandated Sick Days for Public Employees

I will soon introduce legislation to align public employees' sick day allotment with the standard allotment for state public employees.

State employees receive 10 sick days per year, while many local government employees receive an excessive 15 sick days per year (3 weeks). This legislation makes 10 sick days per year the standard across the board - impacting county, municipal, civil service township, school district, and university employees. This will help create fairness between state and local government employees. The bill contains a provision that restricts collective bargaining agreements from requiring local governments to provide more than the state mandated number of 10 sick days annually.

By forcing local governments/taxpayers to provide an excessive number of sick days, the state is driving-up local governments' costs. You will be hard pressed to find any private-sector business that provides 15 sick days annually. Also, government employees receive additional, generous amounts of personal days and vacation leave. The legislature created this excessive mandate and it is time for us to fix it. Please join with me to support a reasonable standard and provide relief to our local governments.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov or at (614) 466-1731 by Tuesday, June 13.

Sincerely,
Derek Merrin

From:

Sent: Friday, June 2, 2017 2:41 PM

To: Geig, Elise; Miller, Brad

CC: Zielinski, Justin; 'statesenator29@gmail.com'

Subject: RE: Protect Your Pension -- Come to a Rally in Columbus on June 7

Thanks for sending!

From: Geig, Elise

Sent: Friday, June 02, 2017 12:55 PM

To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn
<Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>

Cc: Zielinski, Justin <Justin.Zielinski@ohiohouse.gov>; 'statesenator29@gmail.com'
<statesenator29@gmail.com>

Subject: FW: Protect Your Pension -- Come to a Rally in Columbus on June 7

Here is the info about the advocacy day that the union has planned. We have committee planned for 10 am to hear sponsor and proponent so it looks like that should time well with their schedule.

Registration opens at 9:30 a.m. on the Sheraton second floor. That's where you will receive your t-shirt. At 10:30 a.m., we will start our day with a brief meeting that will include the latest information on the status of the COLA issue and an overview of the day's activities. We will provide lunch before we march together over to the Statehouse and then onto SERS

Best,

Elise Geig

Majority Policy Advisor | Speaker Clifford A. Rosenberger
Ohio House of Representatives | 77 S. High Street, 14th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Office: 614.644.0380 | Mobile: 614.371.7554
Elise.geig@ohiohouse.gov

From: Laurel Johnson [<mailto:LJohnson@ohsers.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 4:55 PM

To: Geig, Elise <Elise.Geig@ohiohouse.gov>; Bethany Rhodes <Bethany.Rhodes@orsc.org>;
Jeff Bernard <Jeff.Bernard@orsc.org>

Subject: FW: Protect Your Pension -- Come to a Rally in Columbus on June 7

Hi Elise and Bethany – I wanted to send you the OAPSE rally notice for June 7 so you had the details. Please let me know if you have any questions. Many thanks.

Laurel J. Johnson, APR
Senior Government Relations Officer
School Employees Retirement System of Ohio
300 East Broad Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 222-5918
ljohnson@ohsers.org

Serving the People Who Serve Our Schools ®

Begin forwarded message:

From: OAPSE/AFSCME Local 4 <kmalone@oapse.org>
Date: May 23, 2017 at 4:04:13 PM EDT
To: bphillips@zoominternet.net
Subject: Protect Your Pension -- Come to a Rally in Columbus on June 7
Reply-To: kmalone@oapse.org

Keep the promise.

**PROTECT OUR
PENSIONS!**

OAPSE/AFSCME



Action Alert: Rally and March for Retirement Security Set for June 7 in Columbus

Tell Legislators and SERS: KEEP THE PROMISE, PROTECT PENSIONS

OAPSE is fighting to save your pension and your retirement security. We are pushing back against Senate Bill 151 (SB151) and a proposed freeze and reduction in the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for current and future retirees under SERS. **We hope you will join us!**

Click on the videos below to get current information about the proposed COLA cuts and how you can help by joining us for Lobby Day in Columbus on June 7.



You should have received a phone call from Director Joe Rugola, and you will receive an email with the latest on the most up-to-date details as we get closer to June 7. **We are encouraging members from all**

over Ohio to carpool to Columbus for the Wednesday, June 7 Rally. We will meet at the Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square, 75 E. State St., Columbus, Ohio 43215.



Registration opens at 9:30 a.m. on the Sheraton second floor. That's where you will receive your t-shirt. At 10:30 a.m., we will start our day with a brief meeting that will include the latest information on the status of the COLA issue and an overview of the day's activities. We will provide lunch before we march together over to the Statehouse and then onto SERS.

OAPSE will pay mileage and parking to drivers, and we are encouraging carpools. **Please fill your cars!** In addition to your t-shirt and lunch, we will provide \$15 to attendees to cover other food expenses during your day. We plan to finish up by 3 p.m. so you can beat rush hour traffic out of town.

**To help us plan, please RSVP by calling Rob Fantauzzo at the state office on our toll-free number,
1-800-786-2773.**

See you in Columbus on June 7!

STAY CONNECTED:



OAPSE/AFSCME Local 4, 6805 Oak Creek Drive, Columbus, OH 43229

[SafeUnsubscribe™ bphillips@zoominternet.net](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [kmalone@oapse.org](#) in collaboration with



Try it free today

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The School Employees Retirement System of Ohio intends this e-mail message, and any attachments, to be used only by the person(s) or entity to which it is addressed. This message may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. If the reader is not the intended recipient of this message or an employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you are prohibited from printing, copying, storing, disseminating or distributing this communication. If you received this communication in error, please delete it from your computer and notify the sender by reply e-mail.

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Tuesday, June 6, 2017 2:23 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: Swampy state budgets need The Buckeye Institute's dry analysis

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm guessing that not many of you know that the Bayou state (which was originally dubbed *La Louisiane* in tribute to Louis XIV--King of France from 1643 to 1715) has gotten into a budgetary pickle here in the year 2017 AD.

Fear not.

To help policymakers in Baton Rouge sort out their options, The Buckeye Institute collaborated with our good friends at the Pelican Institute (Louisiana's premier voice for free markets) to conduct a peer reviewed study on a dozen tax policies and proposed changes, including some of Governor John Bel Edward's ill-advised plans.

Buckeye's Economic Research Center (ERC) team created a customized dynamic model of Louisiana's existing economy and then inputted various policy changes to determine which solutions would create the least amount of economic harm to the already struggling families and businesses in Louisiana.

When numbers speak, we listen. Our team of economists and data analysts is second to none and, golly geezers, do they ever get excited about charts and graphs and exploring the validity of their hypotheses with hard numbers. For those of us whose highest math

class was a senior year of honors calculus in high school before we took that wretchedly easy class widely known as "math for liberal arts (a.k.a. political science) majors" in college, these guys are the mad scientists and geniuses who understand complex theorems and derivatives the way I understand my son's excuses for avoiding his homework. In other words, they see through to the truth of the matter at hand.

After finalizing our research, our lead economist Orphe Divounguy, Ph.D., along with Buckeye's president and CEO Robert Alt, flew down to make the case in person and present the results of our comprehensive analysis. These two Buckeye Institute superstars met with policymakers and leaders in the legislature, industry groups, press and media folks, and showed all of them the simulated policy changes through our economic model.

The model determined that eliminating the corporate income tax and replacing it with a revenue neutral sales tax increase would create jobs, grow the economy, and increase tax revenue. Only a Maoist could oppose those exciting outcomes. Approximately two weeks after these meetings, the same legislative leaders with whom our team met soundly defeated the Governor's policy proposals. Three cheers for economic sanity and courageously standing up to bad fiscal policy.

We are pleased to roll out this impactful new report, *Addressing Louisiana's Budget Shortfall: Strategies for Growth*, and show everyone in greater detail what our economic model produced.

"Rather than pursue revenues through increasing the tax burden on citizens, Louisiana would be better served by reducing or eliminating its corporate taxes, and creating incentives for increasing investment, and job creation across the state," said Dr. Orphe Pierre Divounguy, economist with The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center and lead author on the report. "Eliminating Louisiana's corporate income and franchise taxes offer the best path for spurring economic growth and eliminating some sales tax exemptions would have the least harmful effect on the state's gross domestic product while still raising additional tax revenue."

I should note here that it has come to our attention that some very dear supporters of ours are not reading all of our reports in full. They are long, yes, but what better way to prepare yourself to refute the one we heard the other day where Nancy Pelosi was speaking to a classroom full of second graders and was asked the awkward question about where jobs come from. Without missing a beat, she answered that there is a stork employed by the government who drops them off in each state every nine months.....

Okay, fine, that was a lame joke, but still, you should read these excellent economic reports that give us all the evidence necessary to push back against the big-government nonsense that surrounds us.

We love you all and thank you kindly for making our work possible to fight unsound economic policies wherever they are--whether here in Columbus or another state in this great nation, so that we do not **meanly lose this last best hope of earth.**

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, nonprofit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.

= A

= A

Support The Buckeye Institute!



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe= 2 carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2017 8:35 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: New Buckeye Institute and Tax Foundation Book Illustrates That Ohio's Tax System is in Need of Reform

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 7, 2017

**New Buckeye Institute and Tax Foundation Book
Illustrates That Ohio's Tax System is in Need of Reform**
Ohio Illustrated is a Visual Guide to Taxes and the Economy

Columbus, OH - A new book released today by **The Buckeye Institute** and the **Tax Foundation**, *Ohio Illustrated: A Visual Guide to Taxes and the Economy*, provides a detailed overview of the state's economy and tax code and highlights areas where Ohio's tax system is most in need of reform.

"Ohio's tax code contains too many provisions that hinder its ability to compete economically with other states. *Ohio Illustrated* shows how the state's growing tax burden has resulted in slower economic growth over the past several decades," said Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive vice president at The Buckeye Institute. "This new book shows precisely how tax policy affects families, businesses, and our state's economic development."

Economically, Ohio has recently tracked with the national average for unemployment. However, the state is falling behind in other areas, such as per capita income, where Ohio is lower than the U.S. average and its neighboring states. An aging population and young people moving out of the state are shrinking Ohio's workforce. To help the state bounce back, Ohio policymakers need to improve its uncompetitive tax code to make the state a more attractive place to do business.

"Ohio's tax code is needlessly complex and burdensome. With one of the worst municipal income tax systems in the country, the compliance cost for many taxpayers is higher than their actual tax liability," said Scott Drenkard, director of state projects at the Tax Foundation. "Additionally, the state's commercial activities tax is one of the most harmful tax types, leading to tax pyramiding and higher prices for consumers."

Key findings in the book:

- **Ohio has one of the worst business tax climates in the country:** The Tax Foundation's *State Business Tax Climate Index* ranks states by their tax structure, and Ohio's needless tax complexity helps to drive its rank down to 45th in the country.
- **Ohio's municipal tax is a mess and in need of reform:** Both **The Buckeye Institute** and the **Tax Foundation** have testified on this issue and both agree that Governor Kasich's proposal in his FY 2018-2019 budget was a move in the right direction. Ohio has a complex web of local income taxes that makes the state's personal income tax one of worst in the country. Hundreds of municipalities and school districts impose local income taxes based on both where taxpayers work and where they live. Businesses face additional compliance costs by having to manage tax withholdings. Some parts of Ohio have top combined marginal tax rates of approximately nine percent, similar to those of high tax states like New Jersey and New York.
- **Economically detrimental gross receipts tax:** Ohio is one of only five states that imposes a gross receipts tax (also known as a commercial activities tax or CAT), which means taxes are levied at each stage of production, not just on final consumption. This hidden tax leads to higher consumer prices, lower wages, and fewer job opportunities as the tax permeates the production cycle. This tax also leads to vastly different effective rates between different industries in Ohio.

To reform Ohio's tax system, state policymakers need to consider not only tax burdens, but also tax fairness. The combination of Ohio's CAT and the state's administratively complex local income taxes causes significant burdens on the economy. This timely new book illustrates with data, charts, and graphs how lawmakers in Ohio could improve the state's business climate by collecting tax dollars in a more efficient, fair, transparent, and competitive manner.

###

Since its founding in 1989, The Buckeye Institute has served as Ohio's leading free-market public policy think. Through its state-of-the-art Economic Research Center, The Buckeye Institute provides legislatures, governors, state think tanks, and policy experts the data, analysis, and dynamic modeling necessary to understand the impact of various policy proposals on human behavior and economic indicators at the state level. The Buckeye Institute's nationally-recognized research includes studies on government spending and transparency, health care, labor, energy, education, legal, and taxation reforms.

The Tax Foundation is the nation's leading independent tax policy research organization. Since 1937, its research, analysis, and experts have informed smarter tax policy at the federal, state, and local levels. Its Center for State Tax Policy uses research to foster competition among the states and advises policymakers on how to improve their tax systems.

= A

= A



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe= 2 carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2017 10:39 AM

To: Best, Carolyn

Subject: ICYMI: Buckeye's Rea Hederman in The Hill looking at giving states more flexibility to change Medicaid

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

After yesterday's news of Anthem pulling out of Ohio's exchanges, our Rea Hederman has a timely piece in *The Hill* looking at the need to give states more flexibility to, "change Medicaid overall and think of how to deliver the best care, to the most patients for the best price."

You can follow Rea on Twitter [@ReaHedermanJr](#).

States need freedom to improve health for Medicaid recipients

The Hill

By Rea S. Hederman Jr.

June 7, 2017

As Congress continues its work on replacing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Ohio leaders like Governor John Kasich and Senator Robert Portman are rightly concerned about the impact these changes will have on Medicaid recipients, especially those who received Medicaid through the ACA expansion. However, two critical facts are missing from the current debate.

First, Medicaid is a substandard health care system and we have to find a way to transition people into insurance that offers them better care. Second, Medicaid is not fiscally sustainable at either the state or federal level. No one, on either side of the political divide, wants people to be uninsured, but glossing over these two critical facts won't help solve the real problems Medicaid faces and it won't provide people with quality healthcare.

Studies have shown that people who are on Medicaid don't have better healthcare outcomes when compared to someone without Medicaid. In other words, people who receive Medicaid spend more money on healthcare but have the same risk of heart attacks and had the same blood pressure levels.

There are numerous reasons for this. One problem is, Medicaid reimburses doctors and hospitals at a lower rate than private coverage, so recipients have trouble finding doctors who take Medicaid. Doctors who do take Medicaid often have less autonomy in deciding how to treat their patients. Medicaid recipients are more likely to visit emergency rooms rather than seeking more effective care with a primary care physician.

Given the poor quality of care, why would we want to put more people on Medicaid? The focus shouldn't be on protecting a system that has a mixed record of providing healthcare, but instead on finding solutions that offer better care to enrollees. We need to change Medicaid overall and think of how to deliver the best care, to the most patients for the best price.

Here in Ohio, the Ohio Department of Medicaid recognizes the need to offer quality healthcare and is actively piloting programs to deliver better care to Medicaid recipients. The problem is, there is only so much improvement that can be made without Washington lifting some of its burdensome regulations.

Fortunately, federal officials want to make it easier to grant Medicaid waivers that would allow states more flexibility to innovate in their Medicaid programs. Current proposals from the Ohio House would have Ohio seek a waiver to help Medicaid recipients save more for healthcare and transition to real health insurance. This Healthy Ohio plan is based on Healthy Indiana, which is working well for our westerly neighbor.

Now back to the sustainability of Medicaid. As with all taxpayer funded programs, government officials must ensure that money is being spent wisely and efficiently, and that the program achieves its goals. Medicaid fails in all three of these.

In Ohio, we spend a quarter of our state budget on Medicaid, and it is only growing. That means less money for education, roads, prisons, and a host of other government services. The good news is, the reforms I have mentioned will go a long way to improving healthcare delivery and will help reign in the unsustainable costs of Medicaid.

Modern day presidents from Ronald Reagan to Barack Obama have proposed budgets that reduce federal funding to Medicaid and increase the state's share. Medicaid costs are only growing, and the federal government has made clear they will pay less in the future. If Medicaid is not reformed, the only other option is spiraling tax increases on Ohioans. That isn't good for Ohio's families and won't improve the quality of care people get through Medicaid.

Ignoring the problems in the current Medicaid system will only continue to relegate people to poor quality healthcare at unsustainable costs. But we have a real opportunity to actively create a new Medicaid program. In doing so, Ohio can balance fiscal responsibility and offer better care to those most in need.

*Rea S. Hederman Jr. is executive vice president and chief operating officer of **The Buckeye Institute**, a think tank promoting free market principles, and is an expert in healthcare policy.*

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, nonprofit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Merritt, Amanda
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2017 11:53 AM
To: Merritt, Amanda
Subject: RELEASE: Treasurer Josh Mandel Announces Launch of the Ross County



JOSH MANDEL
STATE TREASURER OF OHIO

and City of Chillicothe Checkbooks on OhioCheckbook.com
Attachments: 2017-06-09 Ross County local governments join
OhioCheckbook.com.jpg

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mandi

Merritt

(614) 995-1783

June 9, 2017

****Photo Included*

**Treasurer Josh Mandel Announces Launch of the Ross
County and City of Chillicothe Checkbooks on
OhioCheckbook.com**

*Momentum Grows for Statewide Government Transparency with Over
1,110 Local Government and School Districts Partnering with
OhioCheckbook.com*

CHILLICOTHE— Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel announced today the launch of Ross County and the City of Chillicothe's online checkbooks on OhioCheckbook.com. In December 2014, Treasurer Mandel launched OhioCheckbook.com, which sets a new national standard for government transparency and for the first time in Ohio history puts all state spending information on the internet. OhioCheckbook.com recently earned Ohio the number one government transparency ranking in the country for the second year in a row.

The Ohio Treasurer's office was joined at today's announcement by Ross County Auditor Tom Spetnagel Jr. and Chillicothe Auditor Kristal Spetnagel.

Ross County is the 29th county in Ohio to post their spending on OhioCheckbook.com, and Chillicothe is the first city in Ross County to post their spending on OhioCheckbook.com

The following is a breakdown of today's local government sites:

- Ross County's online checkbook includes over 45,000 individual transactions that represent more than \$67 million of total spending over the past two years.
- Chillicothe's online checkbook includes over 61,000 individual transactions that represent more than \$44 million of total spending over the past two years.

"I believe the people of Ross County have a right to know how their tax money is being spent, and I applaud local leaders here for partnering with my office to post the finances on OhioCheckbook.com," said Treasurer Mandel. "By posting local government spending online, we are empowering taxpayers across Ohio to hold public officials accountable."

"The people of Ross County deserve to know how their tax dollars are being spent," said Ross County Auditor Tom Spetnagel. "By partnering with the State Treasurer's office, that information is just a few clicks away."

"In the City Government's pursuit of financial transparency, we are proud to partner with the State Treasurer's office to add OhioCheckbook.com as another online tool to see how their hard-earned tax dollars are being spent," said Chillicothe Auditor Kristal Spetnagel.

"I applaud local officials in Ross County for their commitment to transparency and accountability through the use of this program, and I look forward to it being a helpful resource for constituents," said Speaker of the Ohio House Cliff Rosenberger.

“I applaud Ross County and the City of Chillicothe for participating in OhioCheckbook.com,” said State Senator Bob Peterson. “It is important for taxpayers to see how their tax dollars are being spent in an easy and readily available way.”

“As an advocate for transparent government, I applaud the decision of Ross County and the City of Chillicothe to disclose their finances on OhioCheckbook.com,” said State Representative Gary Scherer. “I encourage all government entities in our region to follow suit if they haven’t already done so.”

On April 7, 2015 Treasurer Mandel sent a letter to 18,062 local government and school officials representing 3,962 local governments throughout the state calling on them to place their checkbook level data on OhioCheckbook.com and extending an invitation to partner with his office at no cost to local governments. These local governments include cities, counties, townships, schools, library districts and other special districts.

A large coalition of statewide and local government organizations have expressed support for OhioCheckbook.com and local government transparency, including:

- Ohio Municipal League
- Ohio Township Association
- Ohio Association of School Business Officials
- Buckeye Association of School Administrators
- County Commissioner Association of Ohio
- County Auditor Association of Ohio
- Ohio Newspaper Association
- Ohio Society of CPAs
- Buckeye Institute
- Common Cause Ohio

OhioCheckbook.com was launched on December 2, 2014, marking the first time in Ohio history when citizens could actually see every expenditure in state government. Since its launch, OhioCheckbook.com has received overwhelming support from newspapers and groups across the state and, as of June 6, 2017 there have been more than 775,000 total searches on the site.

OhioCheckbook.com displays more than \$598 billion in spending over the past nine years, including more than 164 million transactions. The website includes cutting-edge features such as:

- “Google-style” contextual search capabilities, to allow users to sort by keyword, department, category or vendor;
- Fully dynamic interactive charts to drill down on state spending;
- Functionality to compare state spending year-over-year or among agencies; and,
- Capability to share charts or checks with social media networks, and direct contact for agency fiscal offices.

In March 2015, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG) released their annual “Following the Money 2015” report and Treasurer Mandel earned Ohio the number one transparency ranking in the country for providing online access to government spending data. Ohio was prominently featured in the report after climbing from 46th to 1st in spending transparency as a result of Treasurer Mandel’s release of OhioCheckbook.com. Due to the launch of OhioCheckbook.com, Ohio received a perfect score of 100 points this year – the highest score in the history of the U.S. PIRG transparency rankings.

In April 2016, U.S. PIRG announced that Treasurer Mandel earned Ohio the number one government transparency ranking in the country for the second consecutive year in a row. Due to the launch of OhioCheckbook.com, Ohio again received the highest perfect score of 100 points this year – marking the second time in two years Ohio received the highest possible score in the history of the U.S. PIRG transparency rankings.

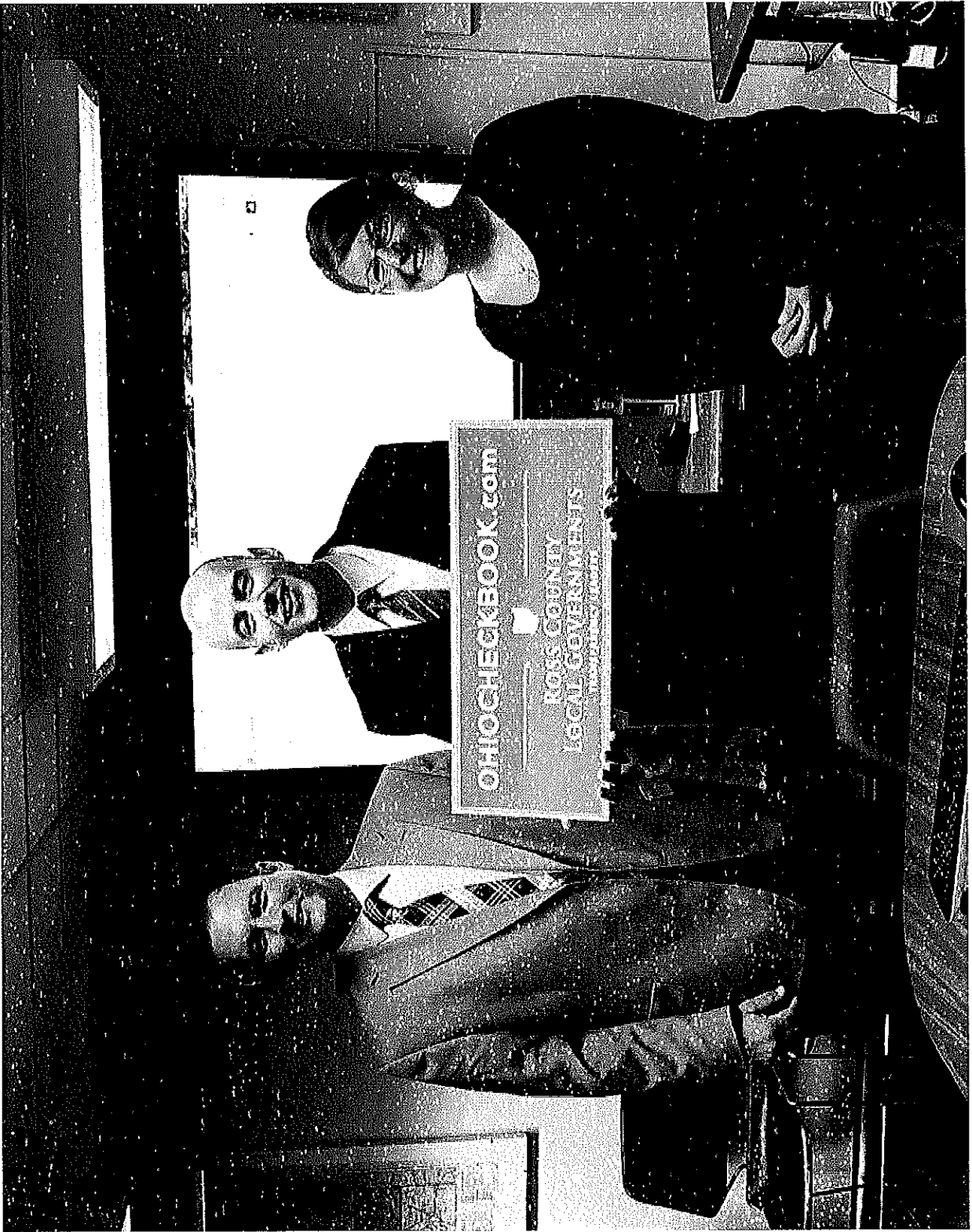
The Treasurer’s office is partnering with OpenGov, a leading Silicon Valley government technology company, to provide residents of Ohio the ability to view and search local government expenditures in a user-friendly, digital format. “Ohio is setting the standard for financial transparency on an unprecedented scale. We are excited to partner with the Treasurer’s office to bring world-class technology to communities large and small across the state,” said Zachary Bookman, CEO of OpenGov.

For more information or to view your local government website, visit the Local Government option on OhioCheckbook.com or click on:

- RossCounty.OhioCheckbook.com;
- Chillicothe.OhioCheckbook.com.

###

Our Mission: The mission of the Ohio Treasury is to protect, manage, and invest state money with integrity and high ethical standards while providing innovative financial services and educational resources to all Ohioans. Confidentiality Notice: This message and any response to it may constitute a public record, and therefore may be available upon request in accordance with Ohio public records law (ORC 149.43). This email message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient(s), please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message.



From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2017 11:46 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: ICYMI: Dispatch Editorial Cites Buckeye Piglet Book as Guide to Cut Spending

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Ohio legislators are in the midst of a contentious biennial budget discussion involving the need to cut at least \$800 million to address projected revenue shortfalls.

The Buckeye Institute previously released our **Piglet Book** to help guide those conversations, and prior to the Ohio Senate releasing its version of the budget, *The Columbus Dispatch*--published an editorial citing the Piglet Book and imploring legislators to cut the pork.

The Columbus Dispatch

= A

'Piglet Book' suggests savings in state budget

The Columbus Dispatch
The Editorial Board
June 12, 2017

It's nose-in-the-trough time again at the Ohio Statehouse. While schools, prisons and Medicaid are major areas of spending in the two-year budget being hammered out in the Senate, other suggested appropriations are better examples of pork than public policy.

To help lawmakers focus on essential government services and responsibilities, the nonpartisan Buckeye Institute has again produced its "Ohio Piglet Book."

"The following items that are recommended for elimination are not necessarily bad things in general," report author, Greg R. Lawson writes in the 2017 edition by the free-market think tank. "However, they are not appropriate use of state resources."

The items singled out by the institute come from Gov. John Kasich's proposed budget and then were massaged in the House. How the final appropriations will look in the Senate by the end of this month is anyone's guess. It's politics. But it's worth legislators heeding the Buckeye Institute's general thrust when it comes to spending Ohioans' hard-earned loot: Focus on core government duties, curtail government growth, encourage private-sector support and end corporate welfare - distributing government dollars to favored companies, disadvantaging competitors.

Take the \$2.4 million collected on behalf of Ohio-grown wine grapes. Every gallon of wine sold in Ohio, whether it comes from Lake Erie or California, is subject to a total of a nickel-per-gallon excise tax to subsidize a marketing program benefiting Ohio wine producers. Why should consumers foot the bill for Ohio wines? Why not impose an excise tax on hamburgers, to help Wendy's compete against McDonald's? Ohio lawmakers should put a cork in this spending.

Another area in which the research group suggests not spending tax dollars is for the Ohioana Library. Intense lobbying has been going on to spare this private, nonprofit organization from the budget ax; Kasich increased its operating funding from \$160,000 to \$180,000, which the House gutted entirely when it got its hands on the budget. (The library's rent subsidy remains.) The library curates a collection of Ohio authors and produces the Ohioana Book festival, among other things.

But tough budget decisions have to be made. The state needs to chop more than \$800 million from the budget, given falling income-tax revenues. This means prioritizing

funding. The Ohioana Library already raises a large chunk of its budget from grants, donors and corporate sponsors. It's a wonderful asset, and it should be able to make a case for philanthropists to take over for taxpayers.

Yes, the library's costs are relatively small potatoes compared with the tens of billions Ohio spends each year, but pennies add up to dollars.

Likewise the Buckeye Institute cites other artistic and cultural endeavors it considers "ripe for termination." Among these is \$25.9 million in biennial state subsidies for the Ohio Arts Council, which the House trimmed to \$25.5 million. "The government should not be the arbiter of culture," it says, "Ohioans can evaluate for themselves which artists to patronize without the government's guidance."

Another target identified is \$722,900 over the two-year budget to support regulating Ohio Auctioneers through state licensing, which the institute says forces Ohioans to ask the state "Mother may I?" and seek government permission to work in their chosen field. "It is difficult to envision," the Institute writes, "what public safety issue could be at stake with respect to auctioneers."

The legislature should make sure that needless, burdensome and other nonessential government spending is going, going, gone.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, nonprofit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2017 3:56 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: Buckeye Institute Experts Weigh-In on Senate Version of Ohio's Budget

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 12, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

Buckeye Institute Experts Weigh-In on Senate Version of Ohio's Budget

Columbus, OH - The **Ohio Senate** announced its version of the biennial budget today and experts from **The Buckeye Institute** issued their reactions.

Spending and Taxes

"The Buckeye Institute is pleased with some of the additional positive steps made by the Ohio Senate in their first crack at the state budget," said **Greg R. Lawson**, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "Additional agency spending reductions, the elimination of some earmarks, and lower Medicaid appropriations are all moves in the right direction. Of course, there remain plenty of areas that could use further trimming to create an even more sustainable budget, especially if revenues continue to lag."

"We applaud the Senate's commitment to maintain previous tax cuts and reforms, which are critical if Ohio is going to continue seeing economic growth, said **Orphe Divounguy**,

Ph.D., the lead economist at The Buckeye Institute's **Economic Research Center**. "In 2016, Ohio's per capita real gross domestic product grew faster than all neighboring states, second only to Michigan, according to the **Bureau of Economic Analysis**. To maintain this trend and ensure that the positive economic benefits of tax cuts are realized, the state needs to continue to pursue income tax reductions across all income tax brackets instead of targeted tax deductions and credits."

Criminal Justice Reform

"We commend the Senate for retaining the **Target Community Alternatives to Prison** (TCAP) program in the budget," said **Daniel J. Dew**, criminal justice fellow at The Buckeye Institute's **Legal Center**. "Although the program will be voluntary for much of the state, we anticipate counties will quickly see the benefits and increased public safety that will come from community-based rehabilitation for low-level offenders."

Municipal Tax Reform

"We are pleased to see an opt-in for businesses to file a single municipal income tax return," said Lawson. "As our **recent report**, released in conjunction with the **Tax Foundation**, said, Ohio's municipal tax is a mess and in need of reform. Ohio's complex web of local income taxes makes the state's personal income tax one of worst in the country with hundreds of municipalities and school districts imposing local income taxes based on where taxpayers work and where they live. Ohio's system is so burdensome that some areas have top combined marginal tax rates of more than nine percent, similar to high tax states such as New Jersey and New York."

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



= A

The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [info@buckeyeinstitute.org](#)

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 8:51 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Tuesday, June 13

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please unsubscribe



NEWS

Senators' budget proposal boosts funding to fight opioid crisis, saves money through administrative streamlining (Akron Beacon Journal, 6/13/2017)

Ohio agency granted adjustments to no-bid contract process (Associated Press, 6/13/2017)

Ohio board to online charter school: Pay back disputed \$60M (Associated Press, 6/13/2017)

Ohio grants Intralot unbid \$71M lottery contract, extensions (Associated Press, 6/13/2017)

Senate budget closes \$1B gap, adds \$6M for opioid crisis (Associated Press, 6/13/2017)

This Ohio paper endorsed Trump. And now? (Cincinnati Enquirer, 6/13/2017)

Would your school lose or gain money under Senate GOP plan? (Cincinnati Enquirer, 6/13/2017)

Americans for Prosperity targets Sen. Sherrod Brown in new digital ad campaign (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/13/2017)

No more art, music and gym tests just to grade teachers? How Ohio could change testing under new proposal (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/13/2017)

Ohio Senate budget plan seeks deeper cuts: Ohio Politics Roundup (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/13/2017)

President Donald Trump nominates Cleveland lawyer Justin Herdman to be new U.S. attorney (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/13/2017)

= A

State agencies, Medicaid take brunt of \$1 billion budget cut proposed by Senate GOP (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/13/2017)

State superintendent proposes cuts in Ohio's state tests (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/13/2017)

ECOT ordered to repay \$60 million for inflating attendance (Columbus Dispatch, 6/13/2017)

Justices uphold Ohio commercial tax (Columbus Dispatch, 6/13/2017)

Lawmakers OK new state contracting rules requiring competition (Columbus Dispatch, 6/13/2017)

Copyright 2017, Gongwer News Service/Ohio
17 S. High St., Suite 630, Columbus OH 43215

All Rights Reserved. This message and any attachments may not be forwarded or reproduced without
express permission from Gongwer News Service.

[unsubscribe](#)

From: Lisa Gates

Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 12:15 PM

Subject: ICYMI: Greg Lawson has an opinion piece looking at the benefits of ESAs

Following on the report ***Education Savings Accounts: Expanding Education Options for Ohio*** he co-authored with Lindsey Burke, Greg Lawson, the research fellow at Buckeye, has a piece on ESAs and their benefits to Ohio's families.

Education savings accounts: The future of school choice in Ohio

Thomas B. Fordham Institute's Ohio Gadfly Daily

By Greg R. Lawson

June 13, 2017

The Buckeye Institute in Ohio recently released ***Education Savings Accounts: Expanding Education Options for Ohio***, a report co-authored with the Heritage Foundation's school choice expert **Lindsey Burke**, which explains how Education Savings Accounts (ESA) will build upon Ohio's already successful voucher and scholarship programs. Adopting a robust ESA program would propel Ohio's outdated public education system into the 21st century, and make it nimble enough to navigate the needs of today's students.

ESAs take the next step toward putting parents in charge of their child's education. In envisioning education in the 21st century, parents—not bureaucrats—are primarily responsible for meeting the educational needs of students. And ESAs will help Ohio realize that vision.

For more than a century, an "Industrial Age" model of mass learning and limited flexibility has dominated the public education paradigm. This model too often ignores the individual needs, differences, skills, and interests of the children it purports to instruct. By embracing a more flexible and personalized approach to learning, ESAs will help Ohio transition into the new "Information Age"—empowering consumers, parents, children, and taxpayers to customize education to better meet student and community needs.

Ohio has helped lead the nation's school choice movement, and already boasts strong charter schools and five different voucher programs that allow parents to seek education options to best meet their students' individual needs. Adding a healthy ESA program simply builds on this success by giving families more purchasing

power to customize their child's education. Even beyond the flexibility of Ohio's voucher programs, ESAs would present parents with an à la carte menu of education products and services, including textbooks, tutors, online classes, private school tuition, and saving for college.

An Ohio ESA program could function in a variety of ways, but the keys to its success will always be flexibility for students and families, and minimizing bureaucratic intervention.

In broad strokes, an ESA program deposits an established base dollar amount into a participating family's account, and would allow for more funds to be added according to a formula that factors relevant demographic criteria and other student needs. Like Ohio's vouchers, the base amount should hew closely to the state's guaranteed per-student funding. ESA funds would be dispersed on a periodic basis after parents submit receipts for eligible education expenses. ESA funds from the state would not be taxable income, and parents should be permitted to supplement their ESA funds with personal revenue and to rollover ESA funds from year-to-year in order to enhance market power and increase the supply and demand for new educational products.

Ohio, of course, uses a complex school funding formula and an elaborate mechanism of local and state taxes that would make Rube Goldberg proud. Thus, any ESA funding formula will need to account for those complexities to ensure that the state allocates adequate resources.

Like any state considering ESAs, Ohio should also look to the five successful ESA programs already up and running in Arizona, Florida, Mississippi, Nevada, and Tennessee. The programs in Florida, Mississippi, and Tennessee are currently only available to certain special needs students, but Arizona and Nevada have created effectively universal ESAs for their students.

In 2011, Arizona created the first ESA program with its Empowerment Scholarship Accounts for children with special needs. The program has been a resounding success, with **70 percent of survey respondents** indicating that they were very satisfied with their child's educational experience and Arizona Governor Doug Ducey signing legislation this year to expand the ESAs into a near universal program.

Nevada was first to adopt universal ESAs in 2015, but litigation over the state's chosen funding stream has delayed its implementation.

Already, Ohio policymakers appear keen to join this revolutionary school choice trend. Two companion bills, **Senate Bill 85** (sponsored by Senator Matt Huffman)

and **House Bill 200** (sponsored by Representative Kyle Kochler), would modify Ohio's existing non-special needs vouchers by creating a single Opportunity Scholarship. These would closely mirror ESAs and would be available to eligible students based upon a sliding income scale, and they offer Ohio a good place to start.

Nothing succeeds like success. As policymakers and the public learn of ESA successes around the country, demand will continue to grow for more school choice, more parent empowerment, and more innovative and effective ways to educate our students. School choice has always recognized that a traditional one-size-fits-all public education does not meet the individualized and nuanced needs of students and their families. ESAs take the next logical step away from a bureaucratic education system that proves increasingly outmoded and unable to satisfy the demands of the new century.

*Greg R. Lawson is a research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute** in Ohio and an expert in school choice.*

Lisa A. Gates

Vice President of Communications

The Buckeye Institute

88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120 | Columbus, Ohio 43215

(614) 224-3255 | BuckeyeInstitute.org

From: Springhetti, Blake
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 2:32 PM
To: House All
Subject: EXTENDED: Co-Sponsor Request: Reduced Mandated Sick Days for Public Employees
Attachments: Co-Sponsor Request - Reducing Mandated Sick Days for Public Employees.pdf

The deadline to co-sponsor has been extended to **Tuesday, June 20 at 5pm!**



Representative Derek Merrin
47th District

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Derek Merrin
DATE: June 13, 2017
RE: **EXTENDED: Co-Sponsor Request: Reduced Mandated Sick Days for Public Employees**

I will soon introduce legislation to align public employees' sick day allotment with the standard allotment for state public employees.

State employees receive 10 sick days per year, while many local government employees receive an excessive 15 sick days per year (3 weeks). This legislation makes 10 sick days per year the standard across the board - impacting county, municipal, civil service township, school district, and university employees. This will help create fairness between state and

local government employees. The bill contains a provision that restricts collective bargaining agreements from requiring local governments to provide more than the state mandated number of 10 sick days annually.

By forcing local governments/taxpayers to provide an excessive number of sick days, the state is driving-up local governments' costs. You will be hard pressed to find any private-sector business that provides 15 sick days annually. Also, government employees receive additional, generous amounts of personal days and vacation leave. The legislature created this excessive mandate and it is time for us to fix it. Please join with me to support a reasonable standard and provide relief to our local governments.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide, Blake Springhetti, at Blake.Springhetti@ohiohouse.gov or at (614) 466-1731 by **Tuesday, June 20 at 5pm**.

Sincerely,
Derek Merrin

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 5:59 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: At White House, The Buckeye Institute and Ohio Senate President Obhof
Call for Greater Flexibility for the States on Health Care Reforms

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 14, 2017

At White House, The Buckeye Institute and Ohio Senate President Obhof Call for Greater Flexibility for the States on Health Care Reforms

Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute, along with Ohio's Senate President Larry Obhof, attended a White House meeting on Wednesday that included legislative leaders from several states as well as nationally-recognized health care policy experts to discuss the concerns and needs of the states on health care reform.

Ohio's delegation to the meeting included Senator Obhof and Buckeye's own Executive Vice President Rea S. Hederman Jr. who were there to request more flexibility from Washington for the states to have more control over managing their own health care. Similar requests had previously been blocked by the Obama administration.

"Last week, Anthem left 20 Ohio counties without an insurer on the private market. If Obamacare actually worked as promised, insurance companies would not be abandoning

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2017 10:01 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: Buckeye's Criminal Justice Expert Daniel Dew Praises Work of Criminal Justice Recodification Committee

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 15, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

Buckeye's Criminal Justice Expert Daniel Dew Praises Work of Criminal Justice Recodification Committee

Columbus, OH - The Criminal Justice Recodification Committee released its final report today outlining recommendations to the Ohio General Assembly on how to fix Ohio's criminal code. The report includes recommendations on sentencing reform, drug law reform, and policies that can assist former offenders on their journey to stay on the straight and narrow.

A leader in the area of criminal justice reform, The Buckeye Institute's Daniel J. Dew worked with the committee's chairman, Judge Fred Pepple, and his staff to provide research and support on key reforms. Dew said of the committee's work, "After decades of piecemeal legislation, the Ohio criminal code is bloated, inconsistent, and difficult to understand - even for lawyers. The Recodification Committee was given the herculean task

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 8:33 AM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: BUCKEYE BLOG: Overview of First Senate Changes to Ohio's Budget

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Overview of First Senate Changes to Ohio's Budget

By Greg R. Lawson
June 19, 2017

On June 12, the Ohio Senate unveiled its initial version of the state's biennial operating budget, improving upon the House of Representatives' version, **House Bill 49**. The Senate's solid first effort goes further than the House in some key areas-including administrative agency cuts, Medicaid reductions, municipal tax reform, criminal justice, and healthcare-but more work remains to be done, especially with recurring revenue shortfalls looming on the horizon.

In our **initial comments on the Senate version** of the budget we commended the Senate for their work, but highlighted that "there remain[ed] plenty of areas that could use further trimming to create an even more sustainable budget, especially if revenues continue to lag."

With that in mind, we offer the following observations as the Senate continues its budget deliberations.

Spending

The Senate draft reduces the House's total appropriations over the biennium by \$366 million. With appropriations of \$60.7 billion in FY18 and \$61.9 billion in FY19, state spending would dip below actual FY16 spending and projected FY17 spending. The Senate exceeds the House's General Revenue Funds (GRF) cuts by an additional \$423 million, wisely eliminating a fair number of earmarks. Many of the Senate's proposed spending reductions are real-not illusory accounting gimmicks-and demonstrate more progress toward fiscal responsibility than we often see in the budget process.

Some of the Senate's cost-savings are unlikely to materialize fully, particularly the proposed Medicaid cuts, but we applaud both chambers for requiring the Kasich Administration to obtain Controlling Board approval for expanded Medicaid spending. In addition, we remain encouraged that the Board's approval is contingent upon the Administration seeking federal Medicaid reform waivers.

In addition to finding more administrative savings within state agencies, the Senate will also claw back millions of unspent dollars scattered throughout various line items throughout the budget. Some of the claw-backs may prove one-time savings that cannot be repeated in subsequent years, but the Senate's effort are appreciated nonetheless.

The Senate slashes the **Department of Education's** budget by \$142.6 million over two fiscal years, but retains the House's increases in foundation funding. Even more significantly, the Senate substantially revises the school funding formula in order to prevent most school districts, even those with significant enrollment declines, from receiving less funding. The revised funding formula will be paid for in part by lowering the caps on faster growing districts.

Taking a few pages out of our **Piglet Book**, the Senate version reduces appropriations for several line items, including the "Small Business and Export Assistance" by nearly \$1.4 million over two years.

And finally, the Senate wisely retains reforms that will limit the Controlling Board's authority over unexpected federal windfalls, and will prevent the Board from circumventing the legislature.

Taxes

We applaud both chambers for maintaining previous tax cuts and reforms that are now beginning to deliver for Ohio. According to the **Bureau of Economic Analysis**, Ohio's economy grew faster in 2016 than each of our neighbor states except Michigan. Despite this positive sign, several examples illustrate the work that remains to be done to make the tax code as simple and fair as possible for Ohio's families and businesses.

Ohio's tax code remains riddled with complex deductions and special exemptions that encourage individuals and businesses to restructure their transactions to gain tax benefits. Although tax deductions may support worthy causes, such as college savings and disability-expense accounts, reducing the size and number of deductions will make Ohio's tax code more efficient, more fair, and may ultimately help Ohio transition from an income tax to a pro-growth consumption tax state.

Thus, we think that the Senate's proposal which doubles the tax deductions available for college savings plans and disability-expense savings accounts from \$2,000 to \$4,000 per beneficiary takes a step in the wrong direction. We have similar concerns about special tax treatments that favor only certain sectors and industries, such as the "Rural Jobs Act," which unfairly benefits insurance companies and financial institutions that invest in rural and "high growth" funds. Although spurring rural job-growth is a noble cause, we think it unlikely that these tax expenditures will succeed, and all businesses and families would see greater benefits with sustainable across-the-board tax cuts.

Instead of adding or expanding special tax exemptions, policymakers should look to reduce and eliminate deductions in order to finance an across-the-board income tax cut. Reducing taxes across all tax brackets would continue to leverage the state's recent economic gains and have a far greater impact on rural Ohio than special-interest tax breaks.

Municipal Income Tax

The Senate took a positive step that will allow businesses to file a single tax return, while not shifting administrative fees to taxpayers. This provision will save Ohio businesses from some of the administrative headaches associated with Ohio's byzantine municipal income tax. Much more reform is needed, of course, but it is good to see a strong effort to fix a broken system that consistently hurts Ohioans.

Medicaid

The Senate has yet to embrace the Governor Kasich's proposal to shift certain Medicaid populations, particularly the more expensive Aged, Blind, and Disabled category, into managed care in order to save money while providing better care. However, at least the Senate's budget continues reforming Medicaid and makes some progress reining in

Ohio's fiscal "Pac-Man" by cutting more than \$100 million from the **Department of Medicaid** over FY18 and FY19.

The Senate's intentional *underfunding* of Medicaid will help maintain legal guardrails on the program and encourage **Healthy Ohio** and other **significant reforms** through state innovation or 1332 waivers. As noted, the current Senate budget also wisely retains House provisions concerning Medicaid and the Controlling Board's required authorization for expansion spending. These policies will likely reduce Medicaid costs and make it easier for Medicaid expansion recipients to move into affordable private insurance coverage.

Education

The Senate adopts some of the Administration's proposal to begin shifting Ohio's school funding formula away from guarantees and caps. Unfortunately, the Senate lowers the caps, and thus slows the state's transition away from guarantees.

The caps and guarantees in Ohio's education funding distort the Foundation Funding Formula (the designated amount spent on each public-school student from the General Revenue Fund and lottery profits). Guarantees allow districts with declining enrollment to maintain previous funding levels despite serving fewer students, and caps prevent districts with growing enrollment levels from receiving the formula's full amount. We think more robust efforts should be pursued through the budget process to resolve this systemic issue.

We would also encourage policymakers to eliminate "safe harbors" for many school buildings. The legal safe harbor provisions effectively limit or prevent many students from receiving EdChoice scholarships as hundreds of buildings that should be eligible for those scholarships are never added to the eligibility list.

Criminal Justice

We commend the Senate for retaining the **Target Community Alternatives to Prison** (TCAP) program. Although the program will be voluntary for much of the state under the Senate's budget, counties will quickly join the program as they see the benefits to public safety that come from community-based rehabilitation for low-level offenders.

Local Government

The Senate tweaks the distribution of the Local Government Fund to help various programs battling Ohio's opiate addiction crisis, and also fine-tunes the formula for the Public Library Fund to receive an additional \$9 million in GRF over the biennium.

The Buckeye Institute recommends phasing out the LGF altogether or at least implementing the Governor's proposal to better target the LGF to those local governments that have limited capacities to raise operational funds.

Conclusion

The Ohio Senate deserves credit for the positive steps they have taken with first iteration of the budget, especially in light of reduced revenues. However, now is not the time to rest. The Buckeye Institute still recommends additional reductions, highlighted in our **Piglet Book**, to further improve Ohio's fiscal situation and appropriately balance state priorities.

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

[SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Lisa Gates

Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 9:57 AM

Subject: ICYMI: Buckeye's Greg Lawson's op-ed in the Dispatch "Ohio needs to simplify convoluted tax system"

Buckeye's Greg Lawson had a piece in yesterday's Columbus Dispatch looking at Ohio convoluted local tax system saying, "Ohio hosts the absolute worst municipal income tax in the entire nation."

Ohio needs to simplify convoluted tax system

The Columbus Dispatch

By Greg R. Lawson

June 18, 2017

Winston Churchill once wrote, "We contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle."

There is great wisdom in Sir Winston's statement. Fortunately, Ohio policymakers have largely embraced this wisdom over the last decade with state tax reforms that have positively impacted Ohio's economy. However, much more is needed to keep Ohio moving forward, including broader reforms to Ohio's local tax structure.

To help policymakers and everyday Ohioans better understand Ohio's taxes, The Buckeye Institute recently joined with the Tax Foundation to publish a visual guide to Ohio's taxes and economy, "Ohio Illustrated." The book highlights areas where policymakers have made improvements to Ohio's job and economic climate and areas where work remains.

One area where Ohio has seen improvement is reducing the state personal income tax, a policy that is critical for long-term economic growth and one that is paying off. Data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis shows that Ohio's economy grew faster in 2016 than its neighboring states, second only to Michigan, proof that these policies are having a positive impact.

Unfortunately, while the state has been moving in the right direction, local taxes continue to be a particular thorn in Ohio's side.

Ohio hosts the absolute worst municipal income tax in the entire nation. Only 17 states levy local income taxes and of those, Ohio has second-highest effective rate, which is layered onto the state income tax.

If you happen to live in one of the more than 200 jurisdictions that don't offer a full credit for the taxes paid where you work and a school district with an income tax, your combined state and local income tax rate could easily be more than 9 percent. That is close to what residents of high-tax states like New York and New Jersey pay.

This means less money in the pockets of many Ohio families. For example, if someone works in Columbus and lives in Powell, they will pay 3 percent of their income in local taxes on top of their state rate. This is because Powell only offers a .25 percent credit on their .75 percent rate. This is then added to Columbus' 2.5 percent rate. Take the same situation for a Westerville resident and he or she will pay only 2.5 percent to Columbus since Westerville offers a full credit to their residents on taxes paid to where they work.

Confusing, isn't it? In essence, the first resident is unfairly double taxed, while the second is not. Even worse, both of those taxpayers had no vote on the rate they pay to Columbus since they don't live there. I seem to recall a special party in Boston over the issue of taxation without representation.

Even worse, the complexity of filing in multiple jurisdictions means hours of effort to do nothing more than merely comply with local tax. It is common for contractors that work in numerous different cities to have to file 20, 30, or even 40 different tax returns. No other state has localities that make their taxpayers run through this kind of obstacle course and this should change.

Recognizing this burden, the Kasich administration and the General Assembly are close to implementing a positive reform that will ease some of this hardship for Ohio's small businesses. A provision in the current version of the state budget will allow businesses to file a single return through the state and cut through much of the complexity. This is a positive step, albeit a small one.

While keeping state and local taxes low and broad-based is key to ensuring Ohio's continued economic growth, it is important that lawmakers avoid favoring any specific groups of businesses over others through an ever-expanding list of tax credits and deductions. Ohio's priority should be to create more jobs and grow the economy and this means making our overall tax system simpler and fairer for all Ohioans. We should continue to embrace Sir Winston's wisdom and make sure that we don't become like the man standing in a bucket who tries to lift himself up by the handle.

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

Lisa A. Gates

Vice President of Communications

The Buckeye Institute

88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120 | Columbus, Ohio 43215

(614) 224-3255 | BuckeyeInstitute.org

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 10:57 AM
To: Miller, Brad; Best, Carolyn; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora; Cho, Joy
Subject: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

6/12/17 – 6/18/17

Columbus Dispatch: The Daily Briefing: Ohio Senate president talks insurance mandates at White House

He was joined by Sen. Steve Wilson, R-Maineville, Rep. Mark Romanchuk, R-Mansfield, and Rea Hederman Jr. of the Buckeye Institute.

Cincinnati Business Courier: Ohio dogs soon may get their day on restaurant patios

"I'm a huge animal advocate. There's a number of other states and municipalities that allow it. It's all over Europe," Lanese told me on Tuesday. "Why not allow restaurants to make the decision for themselves? They know their customers best."

Columbus Underground: New bill would allow dogs on restaurant patios

"This legislation gives businesses the freedom to decide for themselves whether or not to allow dogs on their patios," said State Representative Laura Lanese (R-Grove City), who sponsored the bill. "It is also a recognition of the importance of animals in our lives. We already have pet-friendly hotels, pet-friendly parks, and pet-friendly events. It's a good opportunity for marketing our state as pet-friendly for tourism purposes as many travelers want to bring their pets along with them while they travel."

WSYX: Lawmakers looking to allow dogs to dine at restaurants

The sponsor of the bill, Rep. Laura Lanese (R - Grove City) said she started working on the bill after hearing from several restaurant owners who had only recently learned they couldn't have dogs on the patio. She said she understands some people won't want to eat with dogs around.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: Ohio budget bill would expand wrongful conviction payouts

Rep. Bill Seitz, the Cincinnati Republican who sponsored the 2003 bill, said the court got it wrong. The legislature always intended procedural errors, regardless of when they occurred in the case, to make someone eligible for compensation.

WDTN: Ohio congressman hailed a hero for helping Scalise after Virginia shooting
"We're at a time in our country," Rep. Niraj Antani said. "Where we all just need to take a step back."

Youngstown Vindicator: As senior population grows, so, too, must commitment to elder-abuse prevention

Three months ago, State Rep. Wes Retherford, R-Hamilton, introduced House Bill 78, popularly known as the Elder Justice Act. It includes reforms to laws governing procedures of the JFS and Adult Protective Services in all 88 counties to better protect seniors from mistreatment.

The Daily Reporter: Lawmaker seeks tax credit to boost local voting

Rep. Steve Hambley, R-Brunswick, sponsor of House Bill 185, cited Ohio's non-presidential election turnout — 40.37 percent — as justification for his bill.

Perry Tribune: Representatives introduce legislation on right to carry for off-duty officers

State Representatives Larry Householder (R-Glenford) and Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) have introduced legislation to protect the right of off-duty peace officers to carry a concealed weapon.

Dayton Daily: Backers want Ohio Aviation Hall of Fame at future monument site

State Rep. Rick Perales, R-Beavercreek, has introduced a bill establishing a nine-member board to oversee the Hall of Fame and a 2022 deadline for construction.

WKEF/WRGT: Group in Springfield demanding crackdown on payday lenders in Ohio (??)

The bill was introduced earlier this year by Springfield Republican Representative Kyle Koehler and Toledo Democratic Representative Mike Ashford.

Daily Advocate: Old Glory withstands the changes of time

As public servants of this great nation, our loyalty to "Old Glory" is of the utmost importance; we must uphold the values it represents.

Akron Legal News: Student aid program proposed for prospective truck drivers

"The commercial trucking sector is an area in need of qualified workers to fill jobs which are currently available," Rep. Nathan Manning, R-North Ridgeville, told members of the Education and Career Readiness Committee. "In addition to the current available

employment, Ohio Job and Family Services projects that over 18,000 new jobs will be created in the industry by 2024.

From: Miller, Brad

Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:05 AM

To: Adams, Alexandra; Best, Carolyn; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora; Cho, Joy

Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)

I'd say take out the article in question.

Daily Advocate: (Guest column from Rep. Keith Faber:) Old Glory withstands the changes of time

As public servants of this great nation, our loyalty to "Old Glory" is of the utmost importance; we must uphold the values it represents.

>I never include anything from Akron Legal News – their articles are usually several weeks behind relevance.

From: Adams, Alexandra

Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 10:57 AM

To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn

<Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack,

Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

6/12/17 – 6/18/17

Columbus Dispatch: The Daily Briefing: Ohio Senate president talks insurance mandates at White House

He was joined by Sen. Steve Wilson, R-Maineville, Rep. Mark Romanchuk, R-Mansfield, and Rea Hederman Jr. of the Buckeye Institute.

Cincinnati Business Courier: Ohio dogs soon may get their day on restaurant patios

"I'm a huge animal advocate. There's a number of other states and municipalities that allow it. It's all over Europe," Lanese told me on Tuesday. "Why not allow restaurants to make the decision for themselves? They know their customers best."

Columbus Underground: New bill would allow dogs on restaurant patios

"This legislation gives businesses the freedom to decide for themselves whether or not to allow dogs on their patios," said State Representative Laura Lanese (R-Grove City), who sponsored the bill. "It is also a recognition of the importance of animals in our lives. We already have pet-friendly hotels, pet-friendly parks, and pet-friendly events. It's a good opportunity for marketing our state as pet-friendly for tourism purposes as many travelers want to bring their pets along with them while they travel."

WSYX: Lawmakers looking to allow dogs to dine at restaurants

The sponsor of the bill, Rep. Laura Lanese (R - Grove City) said she started working on the bill after hearing from several restaurant owners who had only recently learned they couldn't have dogs on the patio. She said she understands some people won't want to eat with dogs around.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: Ohio budget bill would expand wrongful conviction payouts

Rep. Bill Seitz, the Cincinnati Republican who sponsored the 2003 bill, said the court got it wrong. The legislature always intended procedural errors, regardless of when they occurred in the case, to make someone eligible for compensation.

WDTN: Ohio congressman hailed a hero for helping Scalise after Virginia shooting

"We're at a time in our country," Rep. Niraj Antani said. "Where we all just need to take a step back."

Youngstown Vindicator: As senior population grows, so, too, must commitment to elder-abuse prevention

Three months ago, State Rep. Wes Retherford, R-Hamilton, introduced House Bill 78, popularly known as the Elder Justice Act. It includes reforms to laws governing procedures of the JFS and Adult Protective Services in all 88 counties to better protect seniors from mistreatment.

The Daily Reporter: Lawmaker seeks tax credit to boost local voting

Rep. Steve Hambley, R-Brunswick, sponsor of House Bill 185, cited Ohio's non-presidential election turnout — 40.37 percent — as justification for his bill.

Perry Tribune: Representatives introduce legislation on right to carry for off-duty officers

State Representatives Larry Householder (R-Glenford) and Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) have introduced legislation to protect the right of off-duty peace officers to carry a concealed weapon.

Dayton Daily: Backers want Ohio Aviation Hall of Fame at future monument site

State Rep. Rick Perales, R-Beavercreek, has introduced a bill establishing a nine-member board to oversee the Hall of Fame and a 2022 deadline for construction.

WKEF/WRGT: Group in Springfield demanding crackdown on payday lenders in Ohio (??)

The bill was introduced earlier this year by Springfield Republican Representative Kyle Koehler and Toledo Democratic Representative Mike Ashford.

Daily Advocate: Old Glory withstands the changes of time

As public servants of this great nation, our loyalty to "Old Glory" is of the utmost importance; we must uphold the values it represents.

Akron Legal News: Student aid program proposed for prospective truck drivers

"The commercial trucking sector is an area in need of qualified workers to fill jobs which are currently available," Rep. Nathan Manning, R-North Ridgeville, told members of the Education and Career Readiness Committee. "In addition to the current available employment, Ohio Job and Family Services projects that over 18,000 new jobs will be created in the industry by 2024.

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:09 AM
To: Miller, Brad; Best, Carolyn; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora; Cho, Joy
Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)

I'll remove those 2 and update Faber's.

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:05 AM
To: Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)

I'd say take out the article in question.

Daily Advocate: (Guest column from Rep. Keith Faber:) Old Glory withstands the changes of time

As public servants of this great nation, our loyalty to "Old Glory" is of the utmost importance; we must uphold the values it represents.

>I never include anything from Akron Legal News – their articles are usually several weeks behind relevance.

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 10:57 AM
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

6/12/17 – 6/18/17

Columbus Dispatch: The Daily Briefing: Ohio Senate president talks insurance mandates at White House

He was joined by Sen. Steve Wilson, R-Maineville, Rep. Mark Romanchuk, R-Mansfield, and Rea Hederman Jr. of the Buckeye Institute.

Cincinnati Business Courier: Ohio dogs soon may get their day on restaurant patios

"I'm a huge animal advocate. There's a number of other states and municipalities that allow it. It's all over Europe," Lanese told me on Tuesday. "Why not allow restaurants to make the decision for themselves? They know their customers best."

Columbus Underground: New bill would allow dogs on restaurant patios

"This legislation gives businesses the freedom to decide for themselves whether or not to allow dogs on their patios," said State Representative Laura Lanese (R-Grove City), who sponsored the bill. "It is also a recognition of the importance of animals in our lives. We already have pet-friendly hotels, pet-friendly parks, and pet-friendly events. It's a good opportunity for marketing our state as pet-friendly for tourism purposes as many travelers want to bring their pets along with them while they travel."

WSYX: Lawmakers looking to allow dogs to dine at restaurants

The sponsor of the bill, Rep. Laura Lanese (R - Grove City) said she started working on the bill after hearing from several restaurant owners who had only recently learned they couldn't have dogs on the patio. She said she understands some people won't want to eat with dogs around.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: Ohio budget bill would expand wrongful conviction payouts

Rep. Bill Seitz, the Cincinnati Republican who sponsored the 2003 bill, said the court got it wrong. The legislature always intended procedural errors, regardless of when they occurred in the case, to make someone eligible for compensation.

WDTN: Ohio congressman hailed a hero for helping Scalise after Virginia shooting

"We're at a time in our country," Rep. Niraj Antani said. "Where we all just need to take a step back."

Youngstown Vindicator: As senior population grows, so, too, must commitment to elder-abuse prevention

Three months ago, State Rep. Wes Retherford, R-Hamilton, introduced House Bill 78, popularly known as the Elder Justice Act. It includes reforms to laws governing procedures of the JFS and Adult Protective Services in all 88 counties to better protect seniors from mistreatment.

The Daily Reporter: Lawmaker seeks tax credit to boost local voting

Rep. Steve Hambley, R-Brunswick, sponsor of House Bill 185, cited Ohio's non-presidential election turnout — 40.37 percent — as justification for his bill.

Perry Tribune: Representatives introduce legislation on right to carry for off-duty officers

State Representatives Larry Householder (R-Glenford) and Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) have introduced legislation to protect the right of off-duty peace officers to carry a concealed weapon.

Dayton Daily: Backers want Ohio Aviation Hall of Fame at future monument site

State Rep. Rick Perales, R-Beavercreek, has introduced a bill establishing a nine-member board to oversee the Hall of Fame and a 2022 deadline for construction.

WKEF/WRGT: Group in Springfield demanding crackdown on payday lenders in Ohio (??)

The bill was introduced earlier this year by Springfield Republican Representative Kyle Koehler and Toledo Democratic Representative Mike Ashford.

Daily Advocate: Old Glory withstands the changes of time

As public servants of this great nation, our loyalty to "Old Glory" is of the utmost importance; we must uphold the values it represents.

Akron Legal News: Student aid program proposed for prospective truck drivers

"The commercial trucking sector is an area in need of qualified workers to fill jobs which are currently available," Rep. Nathan Manning, R-North Ridgeville, told members of the Education and Career Readiness Committee. "In addition to the current available employment, Ohio Job and Family Services projects that over 18,000 new jobs will be created in the industry by 2024.

From: Best, Carolyn

Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:48 AM

To: Adams, Alexandra; Miller, Brad; Westlake, Libby; Slack, Cora; Cho, Joy

Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)

Looks good. Can we include the Romanchuk column from last week as well? And the two columns below... for some reason, google search does not pick up on a lot of our columns...

<http://www.timesreporter.com/opinion/20170618/local-perspective-legislation-strengthens-our-families-and-communities>

<http://www.wnewsj.com/opinion/columns/44479/wilmingtons-indeed-split-tacular>

From: Adams, Alexandra

Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:09 AM

To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)

I'll remove those 2 and update Faber's.

From: Miller, Brad

Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:05 AM

To: Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)

I'd say take out the article in question.

Daily Advocate: (Guest column from Rep. Keith Faber:) Old Glory withstands the changes of time

As public servants of this great nation, our loyalty to "Old Glory" is of the utmost importance; we must uphold the values it represents.

>I never include anything from Akron Legal News – their articles are usually several weeks behind relevance.

From: Adams, Alexandra

Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 10:57 AM

To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn

<Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack,

Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>

Subject: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

6/12/17 – 6/18/17

Columbus Dispatch: The Daily Briefing: Ohio Senate president talks insurance mandates at White House

He was joined by Sen. Steve Wilson, R-Maineville, Rep. Mark Romanchuk, R-Mansfield, and Rea Hederman Jr. of the Buckeye Institute.

Cincinnati Business Courier: Ohio dogs soon may get their day on restaurant patios

"I'm a huge animal advocate. There's a number of other states and municipalities that allow it. It's all over Europe," Lanese told me on Tuesday. "Why not allow restaurants to make the decision for themselves? They know their customers best."

Columbus Underground: New bill would allow dogs on restaurant patios

"This legislation gives businesses the freedom to decide for themselves whether or not to allow dogs on their patios," said State Representative Laura Lanese (R-Grove City), who sponsored the bill. "It is also a recognition of the importance of animals in our lives. We already have pet-friendly hotels, pet-friendly parks, and pet-friendly events. It's a good opportunity for marketing our state as pet-friendly for tourism purposes as many travelers want to bring their pets along with them while they travel."

WSYX: Lawmakers looking to allow dogs to dine at restaurants

The sponsor of the bill, Rep. Laura Lanese (R - Grove City) said she started working on the bill after hearing from several restaurant owners who had only recently learned they couldn't have dogs on the patio. She said she understands some people won't want to eat with dogs around.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: Ohio budget bill would expand wrongful conviction payouts

Rep. Bill Seitz, the Cincinnati Republican who sponsored the 2003 bill, said the court got it wrong. The legislature always intended procedural errors, regardless of when they occurred in the case, to make someone eligible for compensation.

WDTN: Ohio congressman hailed a hero for helping Scalise after Virginia shooting
"We're at a time in our country," Rep. Niraj Antani said. "Where we all just need to take a step back."

Youngstown Vindicator: As senior population grows, so, too, must commitment to elder-abuse prevention

Three months ago, State Rep. Wes Retherford, R-Hamilton, introduced House Bill 78, popularly known as the Elder Justice Act. It includes reforms to laws governing procedures of the JFS and Adult Protective Services in all 88 counties to better protect seniors from mistreatment.

The Daily Reporter: Lawmaker seeks tax credit to boost local voting

Rep. Steve Hambley, R-Brunswick, sponsor of House Bill 185, cited Ohio's non-presidential election turnout — 40.37 percent — as justification for his bill.

Perry Tribune: Representatives introduce legislation on right to carry for off-duty officers

State Representatives Larry Householder (R-Glenford) and Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) have introduced legislation to protect the right of off-duty peace officers to carry a concealed weapon.

Dayton Daily: Backers want Ohio Aviation Hall of Fame at future monument site

State Rep. Rick Perales, R-Beavercreek, has introduced a bill establishing a nine-member board to oversee the Hall of Fame and a 2022 deadline for construction.

WKEF/WRGT: Group in Springfield demanding crackdown on payday lenders in Ohio (??)

The bill was introduced earlier this year by Springfield Republican Representative Kyle Koehler and Toledo Democratic Representative Mike Ashford.

Daily Advocate: Old Glory withstands the changes of time

As public servants of this great nation, our loyalty to "Old Glory" is of the utmost importance; we must uphold the values it represents.

Akron Legal News: Student aid program proposed for prospective truck drivers

"The commercial trucking sector is an area in need of qualified workers to fill jobs which are currently available," Rep. Nathan Manning, R-North Ridgeville, told members of the Education and Career Readiness Committee. "In addition to the current available employment, Ohio Job and Family Services projects that over 18,000 new jobs will be created in the industry by 2024.

From: Slack, Cora
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:52 AM
To: Best, Carolyn; Adams, Alexandra; Miller, Brad; Westlake, Libby; Cho, Joy
Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)

Here's the link to the Romanchuk column:

http://www.richlandsource.com/opinion/romanchuk-remembering-the-significance-of-the-flag/article_ef66a680-4f77-11e7-8e12-9725e86e333a.html

From: Best, Carolyn
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:49 AM
To: Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>; Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)

Looks good. Can we include the Romanchuk column from last week as well? And the two columns below... for some reason, google search does not pick up on a lot of our columns...

<http://www.timesreporter.com/opinion/20170618/local-perspective-legislation-strengthens-our-families-and-communities>

<http://www.wnewsj.com/opinion/columns/44479/wilmingtons-indeed-split-tacular>

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:09 AM
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)

I'll remove those 2 and update Faber's.

From: Miller, Brad
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 11:05 AM

To: Adams, Alexandra <Alexandra.Adams@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: RE: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)

I'd say take out the article in question.

Daily Advocate: (Guest column from Rep. Keith Faber:) Old Glory withstands the changes of time

As public servants of this great nation, our loyalty to "Old Glory" is of the utmost importance; we must uphold the values it represents.

>I never include anything from Akron Legal News – their articles are usually several weeks behind relevance.

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 10:57 AM
To: Miller, Brad <Brad.Miller@ohiohouse.gov>; Best, Carolyn <Carolyn.Best@ohiohouse.gov>; Westlake, Libby <Libby.Westlake@ohiohouse.gov>; Slack, Cora <Cora.Slack@ohiohouse.gov>; Cho, Joy <Joy.Cho@ohiohouse.gov>
Subject: ALERT: Week in Review (Sending @ 2)



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

6/12/17 – 6/18/17

Columbus Dispatch: The Daily Briefing: Ohio Senate president talks insurance mandates at White House

He was joined by Sen. Steve Wilson, R-Maineville, Rep. Mark Romanchuk, R-Mansfield, and Rea Hederman Jr. of the Buckeye Institute.

Cincinnati Business Courier: Ohio dogs soon may get their day on restaurant patios

"I'm a huge animal advocate. There's a number of other states and municipalities that allow it. It's all over Europe," Lanese told me on Tuesday. "Why not allow restaurants to make the decision for themselves? They know their customers best."

Columbus Underground: New bill would allow dogs on restaurant patios

"This legislation gives businesses the freedom to decide for themselves whether or not to allow dogs on their patios," said State Representative Laura Lanese (R-Grove City), who sponsored the bill. "It is also a recognition of the importance of animals in our lives. We already have pet-friendly hotels, pet-friendly parks, and pet-friendly events. It's a good opportunity for marketing our state as pet-friendly for tourism purposes as many travelers want to bring their pets along with them while they travel."

WSYX: Lawmakers looking to allow dogs to dine at restaurants

The sponsor of the bill, Rep. Laura Lanese (R - Grove City) said she started working on the bill after hearing from several restaurant owners who had only recently learned they couldn't have dogs on the patio. She said she understands some people won't want to eat with dogs around.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: Ohio budget bill would expand wrongful conviction payouts

Rep. Bill Seitz, the Cincinnati Republican who sponsored the 2003 bill, said the court got it wrong. The legislature always intended procedural errors, regardless of when they occurred in the case, to make someone eligible for compensation.

WDTN: Ohio congressman hailed a hero for helping Scalise after Virginia shooting

"We're at a time in our country," Rep. Niraj Antani said. "Where we all just need to take a step back."

Youngstown Vindicator: As senior population grows, so, too, must commitment to elder-abuse prevention

Three months ago, State Rep. Wes Retherford, R-Hamilton, introduced House Bill 78, popularly known as the Elder Justice Act. It includes reforms to laws governing procedures of the JFS and Adult Protective Services in all 88 counties to better protect seniors from mistreatment.

The Daily Reporter: Lawmaker seeks tax credit to boost local voting

Rep. Steve Hambley, R-Brunswick, sponsor of House Bill 185, cited Ohio's non-presidential election turnout — 40.37 percent — as justification for his bill.

Perry Tribune: Representatives introduce legislation on right to carry for off-duty officers

State Representatives Larry Householder (R-Glenford) and Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) have introduced legislation to protect the right of off-duty peace officers to carry a concealed weapon.

Dayton Daily: Backers want Ohio Aviation Hall of Fame at future monument site

State Rep. Rick Perales, R-Beavercreek, has introduced a bill establishing a nine-member board to oversee the Hall of Fame and a 2022 deadline for construction.

WKRF/WRGT: Group in Springfield demanding crackdown on payday lenders in Ohio (??)

The bill was introduced earlier this year by Springfield Republican Representative Kyle Koehler and Toledo Democratic Representative Mike Ashford.

Daily Advocate: Old Glory withstands the changes of time

As public servants of this great nation, our loyalty to "Old Glory" is of the utmost importance; we must uphold the values it represents.

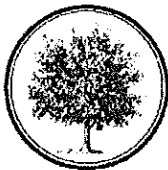
Akron Legal News: Student aid program proposed for prospective truck drivers

"The commercial trucking sector is an area in need of qualified workers to fill jobs which are currently available," Rep. Nathan Manning, R-North Ridgeville, told members of the Education and Career Readiness Committee. "In addition to the current available employment, Ohio Job and Family Services projects that over 18,000 new jobs will be created in the industry by 2024.

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 1:33 PM
To: Best, Carolyn
Subject: BUCKEYE BLOG: Spurring the Ohio Miracle with Sound Policy

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Spurring the Ohio Miracle with Sound Policy

By Quinn Beeson and Orphe Pierre Divounguy Ph.D.
June 19, 2017

Every year, **The Buckeye Institute** and the **Fraser Institute** release *Economic Freedom of North America* (EFNA), an index ranking economic freedom in the states. The rankings look at the ability of individuals to act in the economic sphere free of undue restrictions, such as a high tax burden or labor market regulations.

Academics, economists, and policy experts gather each year at the EFNA Network Conference to discuss the rankings and how states can improve. At this year's conference - happening today and Tuesday - The Buckeye Institute's lead economist, Orphe Pierre Divounguy, Ph.D., will present research titled *Decomposing Economic Prosperity and the 'Texas Miracle': Rethinking Measures of Economic Freedom and the Role of Taxation*. A mouthful, right? Luckily for you, we have summarized the presentation, which looks at the differences between Ohio and Texas in the rankings.

Historically, Ohio has ranked rather poor compared to the rest of the United States - in 2016 we ranked 38th. While Texas, on the other hand, has experienced what many have termed the "Texas miracle," referring to the state's seemingly miraculous economic performance, which has as much to do with its free-market policies as it does with its abundance of natural resources. Since there isn't much that we can do about Ohio's natural resources we ask: How else can Ohio's economy be transformed to mirror the successes Texas is having?

In 2014, Texas's per capita real gross domestic product (GDP) was \$54,026 - almost \$5,700 more than Ohio's at \$48,339. Now, Ohio may not be blessed with the same amount of natural resources as the Lone Star state, but there are certainly ways to improve our economic prospects, particularly if the "Texas miracle" has as much to do with its free-market policies.

The EFNA index first examines how government spending affects economic freedom - a favorite of free-market advocates. Government spending, however, is not the main attribute that differentiates Texas and Ohio. Despite the fact that Ohio's budget needs to be trimmed, and we have offered many **recommendations on ways to do that**, spending alone may not be the magic potion Ohio is looking for.

The second factor the EFNA index ranks is tax policy across United States. Not surprisingly, a low tax burden has a positive effect on GDP. When tax rates are low, people have an increased incentive to work because they are able to keep more of their paycheck - thus, leading to higher investment and higher incomes. However, not all taxes have the same effect on behavior.

Taxes that penalize investment and labor such as income and business taxes have a more harmful effect than taxes on consumer goods. According to the Tax Foundation's ***Facts & Figures 2017*** report, Texas has a higher effective tax on consumer goods (sales tax) and no individual income tax compared to Ohio's highly progressive individual income tax and relatively average sales tax.

Texas also scores consistently higher than Ohio on labor market freedom, the final category examined by the EFNA index. Could the regulatory framework be to blame for why Ohioans are less productive than Texans? Evidence in economics literature shows that labor regulations cause employers to not hire new workers and keep the less productive ones, thus decreasing the overall productivity of the firm.

Over burdensome labor regulations can slow down hiring and reduces productivity, which harms economic growth. Unions are partly to blame for a more rigid labor market in Ohio. **Economists** argue that unions result in **business profit loss**, decrease the **availability of jobs**, and **slow economic growth**. Union membership also significantly decreases **average labor productivity** "by reducing managerial flexibility, introducing restrictive work rules, and limiting the use of merit-based compensation." In Ohio, 12.4 percent of the **working population** are members of a union, while in **Texas**, only four percent of workers are unionized.

There isn't much that Ohioans can do about our state's natural resources. However, there is plenty we can do to help our economic outcomes by adopting pro-growth policies. If Ohio wants to experience its own economic miracle, we must ask our legislators to eliminate policies that slow growth, such as burdensome tax rates and labor regulations that ultimately hurt the workers they were meant to protect. Only then will we begin to close the gap between our state and freer, wealthier states like Texas.

Quinn Beeson is an economic policy analyst with The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center, and Orphe Divounguy, Ph.D. is the lead economist with the Economic Research Center.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

SafeUnsubscribe™ carolyn.best@ohiohouse.gov

Forward this email | Update Profile | About our service provider

Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 3:36 PM
To: Slack, Cora; Best, Carolyn; Westlake, Libby; Miller, Brad; Cho, Joy
Subject: UPDATED Week in Review



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

6/12/17 – 6/18/17

Columbus Dispatch: The Daily Briefing: Ohio Senate president talks insurance mandates at White House

He was joined by Sen. Steve Wilson, R-Maineville, Rep. Mark Romanchuk, R-Mansfield, and Rea Hederman Jr. of the Buckeye Institute.

Cincinnati Business Courier: Ohio dogs soon may get their day on restaurant patios

"I'm a huge animal advocate. There's a number of other states and municipalities that allow it. It's all over Europe," Lanese told me on Tuesday. "Why not allow restaurants to make the decision for themselves? They know their customers best."

Columbus Underground: New bill would allow dogs on restaurant patios

"This legislation gives businesses the freedom to decide for themselves whether or not to allow dogs on their patios," said State Representative Laura Lanese (R-Grove City), who sponsored the bill. "It is also a recognition of the importance of animals in our lives. We already have pet-friendly hotels, pet-friendly parks, and pet-friendly events. It's a good opportunity for marketing our state as pet-friendly for tourism purposes as many travelers want to bring their pets along with them while they travel."

WSYX: Lawmakers looking to allow dogs to dine at restaurants

The sponsor of the bill, Rep. Laura Lanese (R - Grove City) said she started working on the bill after hearing from several restaurant owners who had only recently learned they couldn't have dogs on the patio. She said she understands some people won't want to eat with dogs around.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: Ohio budget bill would expand wrongful conviction payouts